# MENUS AND VENUES

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CONTRIBUTED

Mary Fenwick, a 91-year-old resident of United Active Living's Garrison Green community, asked MRU Conservatory if there was a piano teacher who could work with someone who hadn't played in 30 or 40 years. The answer will be evident to those attending this year's Sounds of the Season concert Dec. 17.

Under the guidance of Conservatory instructor Kathy Dornian, Fenwick will play in the concert as a featured soloist with the Calgary Youth Orchestra. "My daughters suggested that If you do something you haven't done in a long time, it'll stimulate your brain. That's what started this. I bought myself a Roland digital piano from Steinway. It's in my room," she said.

Fenwick said the reaction hasn't always been positive. "One of the ladies here, when she heard I was taking piano lessons said, 'isn't that an unrealistic goal at your age? "I don't have time to be a concert pianist. I'm doing it for my joy... for my soul. And I'm getting so much out of it."

Jean-Louis Bleau, Program Administrator for MRU Conservatory said "Mary's youthful energy fits with this youth ensemble. She's the perfect example that the pursuit of music is a lifelong one."

Undoubtedly, all eyes and ears will be on Fenwick as she sits at the Steinway, including those of her two daughters who will travel from B.C. for the event.

"I'll be playing Hark the Herald Angels Sing. I'm playing the main verse and the choir is singing the descant. I'll practice this like crazy, said Fenwick. "It'll work out. Kathy will help me."

### *For concert tickets or to learn more*

*Music To Your Ears 2016-17 runs at Mount Royal University Conservatory's Bella Concert Hall in the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts, 4825 Mount Royal Gate SW.*

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*Concert-goers save up to 25 per cent when signing up for an entire series. Corporate and group packages are also available.*

# Festive Favourites to ring out in the Bella Concert Hall

The Sounds of the Season is the much-loved yearly festive concert highlighting the MRU Conservatory's performance ensembles, and this year's edition is the inaugural one at the acoustically superior Bella Concert Hall in the Taylor Centre for Performing Arts.

Highlights of the Dec. 17 evening include the diverse and talented choral and instrumental ensembles of MRU Conservatory — the Mount Royal Artio, Mount Royal Kantorei and the Chinese choir Zhi-Yin, a nod to the courses and workshops explored by Conservatory students in Eastern classical music traditions. Another plus — the double choir/double orchestra pieces that take advantage of the 110 voices gracing the stage.

"It's like a musical football game — tossing the ball back and forth between groups," said MRU Conservatory program administrator Jean-Louis Bleau. "And it's a rare coming together — an opportunity for performance ensembles to collaborate. We prepare for the concert from the start of our year. It's a highlight for all the ensembles."

Sounds of the Season features something for all musical tastes. There's sing-along carols and Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, plus Strauss and lighthearted musical theatre fare from the Calgary Youth Orchestra (CYO). And tying it all together is the return of local acapella talents and evening hosts, the Heebee-jeebees.

A special moment at this year's concert is sure to come courtesy of the evening's sponsor, United Active Living Communities. Area resident Mary Fenwick, a 91-year-old piano student, will make her piano performance debut, accompanied by the CYO.

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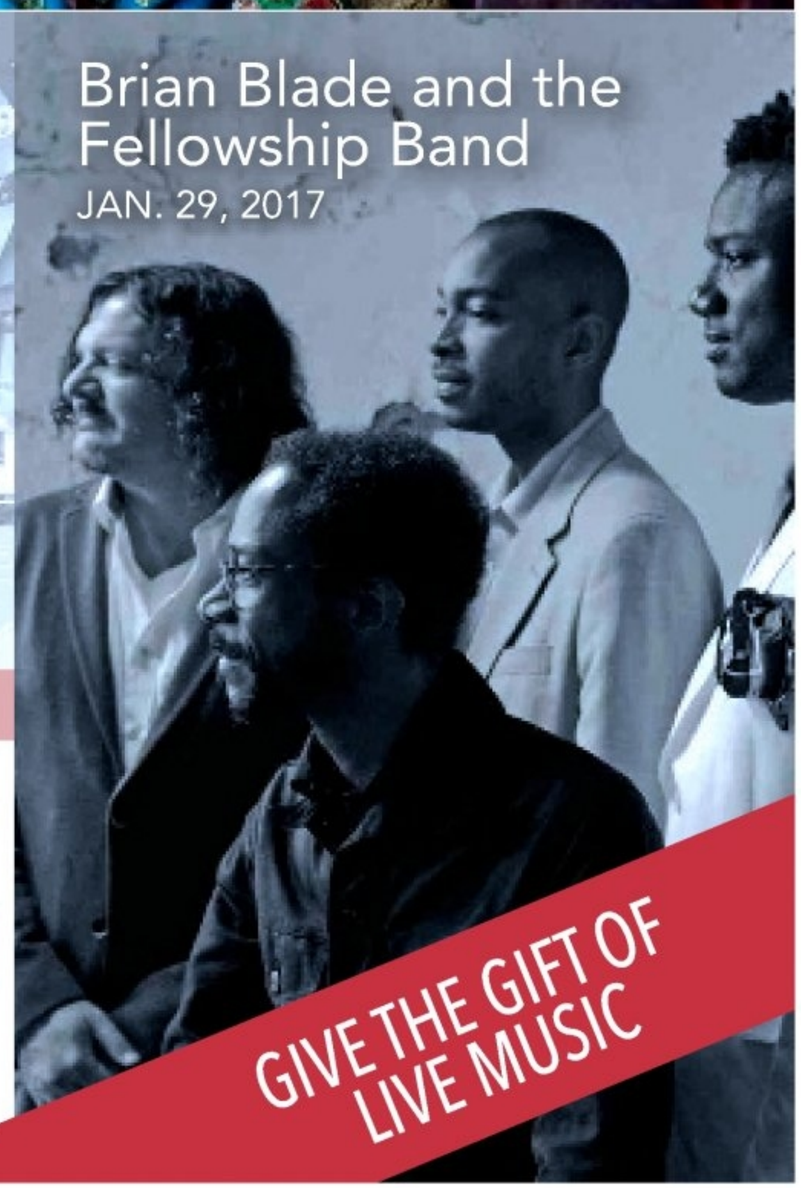


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metroLIFE

# Time to kill daylight savings

LEGISLATURE

## Bill follows petition to observe Central Time all year

Josie Lukey
For Metro | Calgary

It's time to choose one time.

That's according to Thomas Dang, NDP MLA for Edmonton-South West who will table a bill next spring to repeal the Daylight Savings Act (DSA).

On Tuesday, PC leadership candidate and MLA Richard Starke tabled a petition to the Alberta Legislature to repeal the DSA and require Albertans to observe Central Standard Time throughout the entire year.

Dang said constituency offices receive a "big flood" of emails, letters and phone calls twice a year about the time change and he has been in consultations with members of his caucus and Alberta families in drafting a bill.

"I'd like to see one time all year so you wouldn't have to change your clock anymore," said Dang.

"I don't think that anybody really enjoys changing their clock twice a year."

Michael Connolly, NDP MLA for Calgary-Hawkwood said he wouldn't be opposed to abolishing daylight savings time either.

Previously, Connolly said he received more emails about eliminating the time change than about budgetary concerns.

Starke's petition has more than 700 signatures.

A similar petition in 2015 was presented by former MLA Jacquie Fenske, now supporting Starke in the PC leadership race, which had about 3,000 signatures.

In an interview with Metro on Wednesday, Starke said he wanted a referendum on DST to see if abolishing the time change is really what Albertans want.

Thomas Dang, NDP MLA for Edmonton-South West, said he will table a bill next spring to repeal the Daylight Savings Act. ISTOCK

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Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin reportedly can't speak her mind at Miss World pageant. **World**

METRO ASKS

# Do you agree with abolishing daylight savings?

JENNIFER FRIESEN METRO

**As somebody with a young child, whenever there's any kind of change related to time it's not the greatest for my sleep.**

Kieran Ryan

**I think it was an old principle that really doesn't matter anymore. And having to remember the clocks moving back and the clocks moving forward is a hassle so I would say, we're not farmers anymore so we can get rid of it.**

Jamie Robertson

**I'm a college student so it doesn't really matter to me. In college life I'm so surrounded by studies and moving schedules, so keeping track of time is already hard. It doesn't make a difference.**

Taneem Karim

**I like daylight savings because it gives you something to look forward to – or dread. So I'd like to keep it.**

Erin Burke

CITY HALL

# Speaker idea could be debated Monday

City council's debate over whether or not to hire a speaker to chair city council meetings could start as early as Monday.

That's when a task force on the efficiency of Calgary's city council meetings could table a report as a matter of urgent business, according to Coun. Brian Pincott

"What we need is a way to make our meetings more efficient and quicker," he said.

**"What we need is a way to make our meetings more efficient and quicker."**

**Coun. Brian Pincott**

That speaker's job would be to keep councillors on topic, and monitor time limits when applicable.

Currently, Mayor Naheed Nenshi chairs the meetings. He can't make motions or second items from his chair, but he does often ask the deputy mayor to take his seat so he can bring forward a motion or take part in debate.

Pincott said the idea of a speaker is challenging. On one hand, a councillor could act in that independent and unbiased role, but it's an unpopular position.

"No member wants to give up his ability to participate in the conversation," said Pincott.

The other option is to hire an outsider to do it.

Pincott said there is another possible way to speed up the meetings a bit, and that involves a review of the procedural bylaws.

BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

PET RESCUE

# Cold brings record calls to the SPCA

The Alberta SPCA says it had a record-breaking week for animal welfare calls, due to the cold snap in most of the province.

A release from the group said they received 87 calls – more than double 2016's weekly average of 41 calls.

Callers cited the cold weather as the reason for calling in 35 of those calls.

Of the people who were worried about animals left out in the cold, 25 called about dogs, six about horses, two about cattle and one each for a cat and a pig.

According to the SPCA, in almost all cases the animal owners took steps right away to warm up the animals, but the SPCA did seize one dog when the owner could not be located.

The group says the increased number of calls show that Albertans care about the welfare of animals.

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# Notley open to talks on panel

CHILD WELFARE

## Opposition parties want protection for whistleblowers

Premier Rachel Notley gives a year-end update on Wednesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley says she's open to negotiating with the opposition to rescue a fractious all-party panel exploring ways to keep kids safe in government care.

"There are elements of what the opposition put forward that I think we can absolutely incorporate," Notley told reporters at a legislature news conference Wednesday.

"Not everything that they're asking for will necessarily be included but we're certainly open to working with them."

The panel was announced earlier this month by Notley after it was revealed a four-year-old girl in government care, named Serenity, died of severe head trauma two years ago amid signs of violent physical and sexual abuse. Little to nothing appears to have been done since to find out why or who is responsible.

The four leaders of Alberta's opposition parties say the panel announced by Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir has been designed, not to solve the issue, but to whitewash it to avoid embarrassing the government.

The leaders have said they will boycott the panel unless there are changes including whistleblower protection for those who come forward. They also want assurances the meetings will not be behind closed doors unless absolutely necessary.

Sabir and Notley have faced repeated opposition calls in recent days for Sabir to quit over his handling of the file.

Notley made the comments as the legislature wrapped up its fall sitting.

In the past six weeks, Notley's team took the next steps in transforming Alberta's energy and economic substructure to retrofit it for a future of greener technologies.

The government passed a bill to cap emissions from the oilsands at levels about one-third higher than current total.

It outlined plans, timelines, and a deal with power producers to phase out coal-fired electricity by 2030. The plan is to replace it with a mix of natural gas and renewables like solar, wind and hydro.

The electricity system will move to a capacity system where producers will be paid not only for energy used but also to keep enough energy capacity available should the transformation to renewables go sideways. Rates will be capped in the short term.

It has passed a law to bring in government loans to cover any potential fiscal setbacks for consumers under the new energy plan.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau hailed Alberta's plan as the main reason he recently approved a controversial pipeline expansion of the Trans Mountain line that takes oil from Alberta to coastal tankers in B.C.

The opposition, however, says the climate plan is a reckless, ideologically driven multi-billion-dollar misadventure where the risk rests solely on taxpayers and ratepayers.

In just over two weeks, prices at the gasoline pumps and on home heating bills will be going up as the province begins collecting its carbon tax.

Wildrose Leader Brian Jean said his caucus will be keeping a close eye on the impact as the tax dominoes its way through the economy.

"We will continue to fight the carbon tax each and every day and, if elected in 2019 ... we will immediately reverse the carbon tax," said Jean.

Progressive Conservative Leader Ric McIver said the session will be remembered for the NDP redirecting the economy in a number of ways, all of them backward.

"They got two pipelines and then they limited the ability of the (oilsands) energy sector to expand," said McIver.

"(They're) completely divergent actions. There's clearly no strategy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Prayer vigil held for Aleppo

CITY HALL

## Syrian refugee fears for family, friends left behind

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Just nine months ago Asila Ashmawi fled civil war in Syria, seeking safety in Canada with her family, but she hasn't forgotten her fellow countrymen.

Ashmawi organized a prayer and candlelight vigil for Aleppo Wednesday evening outside Calgary's city hall, in hopes of creating awareness and action towards ending the violence against civilians in Syria's war-torn city.

"I want to help my old Syrian people, to stop the bombing," she said. "We need to help the children, the women and all the people in Syria."

The Syrian refugee said she has family still living in her hometown of Damascus, as well as friends who are stuck in Aleppo.

**Ayesha Khan (left) and Athiya Parveen joined dozens of people at City Hall on Wednesday night for a vigil in honour of the people of Aleppo.** JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

"My heart is broken. Every day, my heart is broken," she said.

Not knowing what else she could do, Ashmawi organized the vigil with the help of friends.

"Yesterday I felt so sad, and I didn't know what to do. I wanted to do anything for my family in Syria, for the people who are suffering, for my country," she said.

Ashmawi said although she's thankful for her own safety she worries every moment about those left behind as she recalls the horrors of war and the time her husband was injured during a bombing.

> **My heart is broken. Every day, my heart is broken.**
> Asila Ashmawi

"My husband was hurt by a bomb in Syria and he cut his fingers very badly," she said. "He was not good for a very long time."

But, a new life in Canada has helped heal Ashmawi's family.

"Now my family is all so happy. I see my children everyday strong and happy. We love Canada and we love the Canadian people," she said.

Athiya Parveen said even though she has no direct connection with Syria, she felt compelled to attend.

"This is humans we're fighting for, and we as Canadians are taught to value everything living. These are real lives we're talking about — babies and children — so I would expect the Canadian government to have safe evacuation of the vulnerable populations."

- WITH FILES FROM JENNIFER FRIESEN

INVESTIGATION

## Armed crime spree suspected

Calgary Police are investigating after two people were robbed late Tuesday night and an alleged car-jacking attempt — possibly involving the same perpetrators — occurred shortly after.

Sgt. Paul Cuthill with the Calgary Police Service (CPS) said two robberies took place in separate parking lots at Chinook Centre at 10:01 p.m. and 10:10 p.m. Tuesday, and an attempted carjacking at 11:30 that same night in the 3800 block of Memorial Drive NE.

The first man who attacked the victims is described as black, approximately 6'2" tall, with a slim build, wearing a camo-print jacket with hood and camo-print pants. The second man is described as black, approximately 5'11" tall, with a medium build, wearing glasses and a navy blue hoodie.

The assailants reportedly fled in a small grey car.

It has not been confirmed if the three incidents are related, according to CPS.

Anyone with information is asked to call the CPS non-emergency line at 403-266-1234.

METRO

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MUNICIPAL FINANCES

# Cities don't need new revenue powers: Expert

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

An expert believes five big city mayors across Canada don't need more revenue powers, they just need to better utilize the old faithful property tax.

On Tuesday, a group of Canadian mayors came forward in a letter asking for "reasonable measures for increasing revenue," citing for "too long" cities have relied on property taxes alone to fund growing operational budgets. Nenshi quickly noted, in Calgary's case, they're not looking for more taxation powers, calling it a "revenue sharing" approach with the province.

In a 2014 analysis, Bev Dahlby with the School of Public Policy and Professor, Department of Economics, University of Calgary, found Calgary and Edmonton don't need other tax tools on a major scale. The current property tax is a long-standing source of revenue for municipal governments.

"The level of property tax is now relative to personal incomes in the province, at a relatively low level," Dahlby said. "There's plenty of scope for higher property taxes, especially residential property taxes to fund infrastructure — I think the problem is the mayors don't like the unpopularity that goes with raising property taxes."

Although Dahlby said he doesn't know exactly what Nenshi has in mind when he asks for a "revenue sharing" fiscal framework, he said in normal applications, revenue sharing means a lower level of government collects a fixed amount of cash raised by a senior level of government.

"This just makes them more dependent on provincial government, it's not a power, you're getting an allowance," Dahlby said.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi was joined by a moose mascot at City Hall on Wednesday as he announced the city's New Year's Eve plans. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

# Canada 150 starts at New Year

ANNIVERSARY

## Calgary plans a special celebration for December 31

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

As Canada's 150th birthday approaches, 2017 is set to be a year of celebrations — and the City plans on bringing it in with a bang.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi invited all Calgarians to the New Year's Eve party on Wednesday morning, promising a "bigger and better" bash than previous years.

"I hope everyone will be able to join us downtown and celebrate the beginning of Canada 150 in community," he said.

Calgary was one of 19 cities chosen to receive funding from Canadian Heritage to host celebrations throughout 2017, and was granted $110,000 to host the New Year's festivities.

The party will start inside City Hall with a family-friendly glow-in-the-dark dance party, bouncy castle and two Calgary Paralympians, Alister McQueen and Stefan Daniel, who will join in to sign autographs.

Streamers will fly for families with young children at an early countdown at 9 p.m.

"We'll be celebrating Halifax time," the mayor said with a grin.

The party will carry on outside at Olympic Plaza until midnight — complete with skating, a multi-cultural parade, light-based art installations, fireworks and, of course, a bevy of Canadian music.

Calgary DJs will take the stage alongside local band Eve Hell and the Razors and the Canadian band 54-40, while Cowtown Opera performs from the roof of Arts Commons.

Nenshi said the country's sesquicentennial anniversary focusing on themes of diversity, inclusiveness, youth, the environment and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

"It's going to be a wonderful time to celebrate our accomplishments and show the world what is possible in a country that welcomes all," he said. "Now, more than ever, that old cliché is true: the world needs more Canada, and this year is our chance to share Canada with the world."

> **We'll be celebrating Halifax time.**
> Mayor Naheed Nenshi, on the 9 p.m. countdown for families with young children.

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# Businessman throws hat in mayoral ring

2017 ELECTION

## Candidate on mission to get Calgarians back to work

Shawn Baldwin laughs at competition.

He's a family man, and a Calgary businessman — his company Hire10 actually helps people find jobs.

And now, Baldwin has stepped forward to run for mayor. Which he knows isn't going to be a simple task.

"I'm a realist, there's no question," Baldwin said. "Obviously, I'm quite confident, otherwise I wouldn't be doing it ... I think there's opportunity, I think there's a path to winning the election, it's just a matter of putting my ideas, my plan up against Mr. Nenshi's plan."

As a mayor, Baldwin's main focus is furthering the niche he's carved out with Officejobs.com and Hire10, and getting Calgarians back to work on a grander scale. Starting with the 100,000 citizens he says can't find work in the city.

**Businessman Shawn Baldwin has stepped forward for the 2017 mayoral bid in Calgary.** JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

> **The big thing for me is to ... put a greater focus on creating jobs.**
> Shawn Baldwin

"There's an increase in frustration around the lack of responsibility or activity from a municipal level on what's happening from a jobs market right now, what's happening with the economy, taxation and those types of things," Baldwin said.

"The big thing for me is start to try and reinvigorate that conversation and put a greater focus on creating jobs."

Baldwin said he wants the city itself to take that responsibility, and not wait on the province or feds for action.

What's not on his agenda? Secondary suites. Baldwin said he really wants to see city hall focus their gaze on job creation, instead of something that affects a small proportion of the population.

"I'm not saying it's not important," Baldwin said.

ENTERTAINMENT

## Wynonna Earp to showcase Alberta

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Supernatural western Wynonna Earp returns to Alberta this week and filming kicks off for the show's second season.

"In our business, there's a lot of times you're doing a show you love and it never gets a chance to go to a second season, and this one would have been absolutely heartbreaking if we couldn't do another season," said Jordy Randall, executive producer with Seven24 Films. "To do a second season is a real gift, and I think it's the first step to many more seasons frankly."

Seven24 also produces other Alberta-based projects, including Heartland, but said Wynonna Earp takes the province's locations and does something unique with them.

"Heartland, that showcases Alberta in one specific way," he said. "In Wynonna Season 2, we'll be downtown, we'll also be out in the vista and we'll show Alberta's diversity in the Calgary area. Not just, 'Oh look at the beautiful mountains,' but a real good cross-section this year."

The show also provides opportunities for local actors and special effects companies, like Calgary's Bleeding Art Industries, to help create big budget, on-screen magic.

**Wynonna Earp centres on Wyatt Earp's heir, who must protect her town from demons.** COURTESY IDW FILMS

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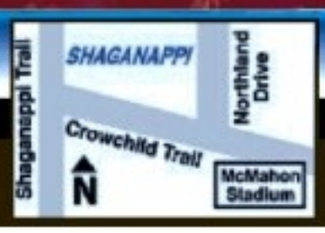


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# Students whip up lunch

CHARITY

## Foundation aims to bag 8K a week for city's homeless

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

There's an old saying about a free lunch, but don't tell it to the students at Holy Name Elementary School

On Tuesday, students set up several assembly lines in their gymnasium producing bagged lunches for the Calgary Drop In — close to 6,000 in total.

According to principal Mary Laviolette, the students paid for the ingredients through their purchases at the school canteen. Then with some help from The Sandwich Foundation, they physically put those ingredients together into tasty sandwiches.

But the bagged lunches had more than just sandwiches and a side snack of goldfish crackers.

**James Closson reaches across fellow student Nathan Mitchell** as they make sandwiches for clients of the Drop In Centre at Holy Name School on Wednesday. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

"There's little cards that the kids have made," said Laviolette.

"So for every recipient of a sandwich lunch, there's a little card that says Merry Christmas, we're praying for you."

She said the school is trying to teach the students about acts of mercy, and this is one way they can use their hands to make a difference.

Teams of students ranging from kindergarten to Grade 6 worked together, adding mustard, mayonnaise and deli meat to buns before packing them up.

Student Claire Franko was having fun in her job adding the mustard-mayonnaise mixture to the buns.

"I like that I'm doing something helpful but it's a bit crazy because everything is going down an assembly line," she said.

> **"I like that I'm doing something helpful but it's a bit crazy because everything is going down an assembly line.**
> Claire Franko

She said knowing that she was helping someone in need was a good feeling, and it made her want to volunteer more.

Amada Paes, the founder of The Sandwich Foundation, said Drop In needs 8,000 bagged lunches per week, and she's hoping to fill that need with her foundation soon.

She hopes to be able to help the Mustard Seed soon as well.

"These schools, they get to give us a little bit of a donation and they get to have a whole sandwich-making day where they give back to the community."

ROAD RAGE

## Two charged in traffic incident

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

A father and son have been charged in an alleged road rage incident that occurred on Macleod Trail and 194 Avenue SE, Tuesday.

Police said the incident happened around 10:50 a.m. Tuesday. They were called multiple times to what callers thought might have been a collision — that turned out to be an apparent road rage incident.

Police said the victim stopped their vehicle around 194 Avenue when it's alleged the driver and passenger of a Land Cruiser opened the door of a van, assaulted the driver, pulled them out of the vehicle and continued to assault them.

Kristian Gzim Marku, 19, of Calgary, is charged with assault and Luigj Marku, 53, of Calgary, is charged with assault and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.

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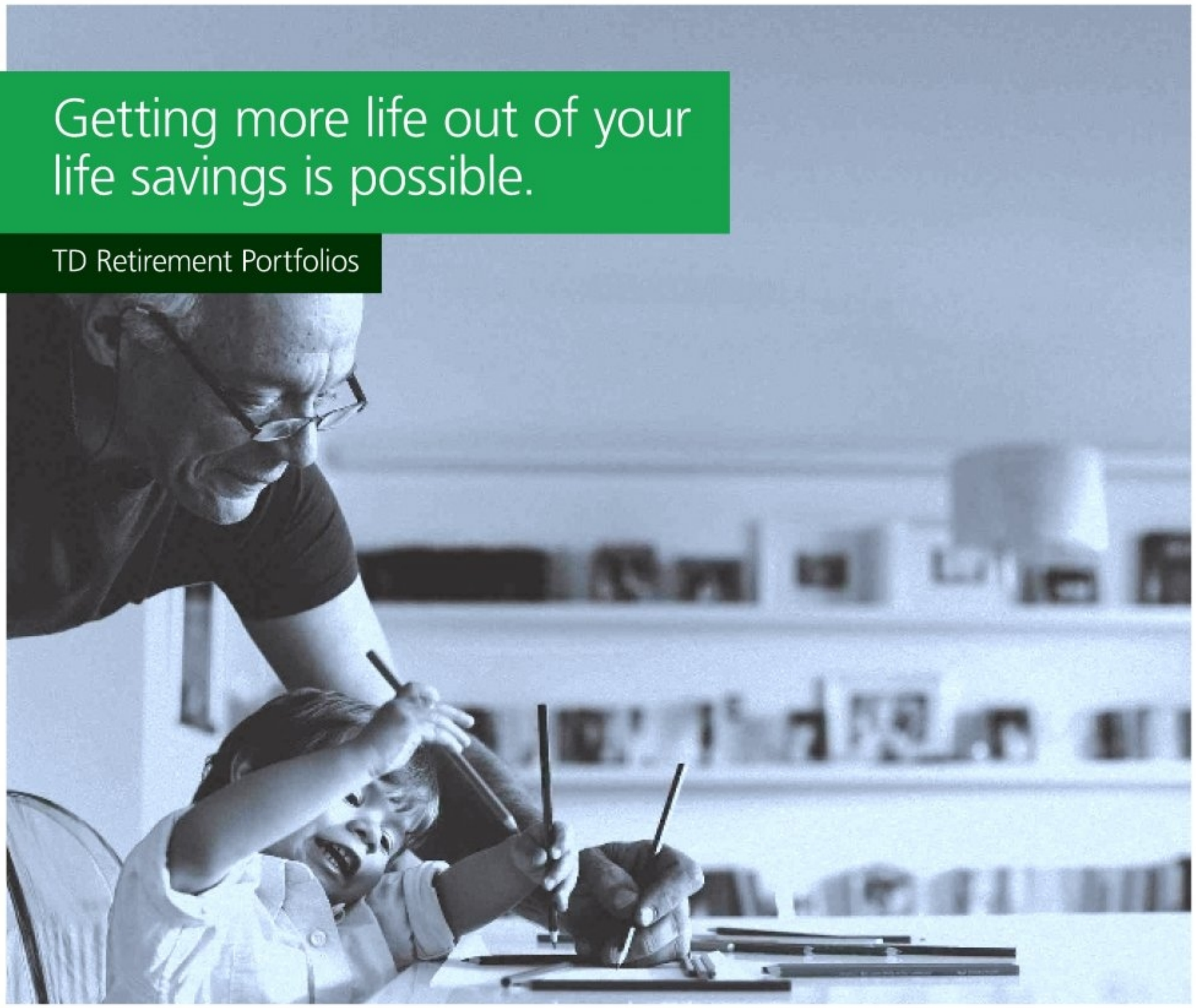

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# Now on DVD: Calgary's own Christmas movie

CULTURE

## Filmmakers achieved what most don't: distribution

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Miracle on Christmas Lake, a Calgary-made film starring Will Sasso (from MadTV) just hit On Demand and DVD.

It's not a place many indie filmmakers find themselves. While many focus rightfully on the filming and editing process, and then getting it into a festival, producer Jayson Therrien said they just often hope for the best from there.

Therrien and director John Kissack were actually already in touch with distributors as they were filming the movie.

> **Lots of filmmakers don't do that, they're not conferencing with the people who will sell it for them.**
> Jayson Therrien on the business aspect of indie film

"Lots of filmmakers don't do that, they're not conferencing with the people who will sell it for them," Therrien explained.

Their first step was actually going to a film festival in Banff a few years ago, approaching distributors and asking them directly what kind of films they were looking to buy.

The answer they received was a Christmas movie. So they took a script they had called The Night Pond, and retooled it with a Christmas angle.

The project started gaining steam, attracted Sasso to come on board, and by the end of January 2016 cameras were rolling.

It also imposed a tight deadline for them – to make the summer festival screenings, and much more importantly, to be ready for Christmas as their distributor wanted, the movie actually had to be ready by July.

It was, and now it exists as a physical DVD in Walmart and HMV, and is available On Demand through cable providers.

And this was Therrien's first feature film.

"First time filmmakers – they're making a passion project, which may not be a passion for everybody," he said. Not that there's anything wrong with passion projects, but Therrien felt in order to have a financially successful first film, the business aspect of filmmaking had to be considered right from the start of the process.

**Miracle on Christmas Lake stars Will Sasso and Kristian Jackson.** COURTESY BENJAMIN LAIRD

FUNDING

## Housing gets $18M

Social housing units in need of repairs and renovations are about to be given a helping hand by the federal and provincial governments.

More than $18 million in joint funding will go towards housing units for seniors and low-income families and individuals.

The funds are expected to support maintenance projects such as heating, ventilation, plumbing as well as renovations and replacements to roof and elevators. More than 120 buildings owned or operated by 29 social housing providers will get much-needed cash.

The funds were made through the 2016-2018 Social Infrastructure Fund. METRO

PARKS

## Moose warning

Alberta moose can't resist the sultry taste of a salt-laden car.

On Dec. 13, a notice for Chester Lake and Burstall Pass Parking Lots and Area was issued until further notice, warning that winter explorers may come across a curious moose on trails near parking lots, and around vehicles.

It's recommended to watch a moose in action, viewers should be 30 metres away, and the notice had some special instruction for travellers who've found their car taken hostage by a licking moose.

"Sound a car horn, or use your remote door alarm to regain access to your vehicle," read the notice. "Do not attempt to push the moose away from your vehicle on foot." METRO

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# Pot shops opening in Montreal

MARIJUANA

## Investors are lining up, says activist wife of 'prince of pot'

Several pot dispensaries set to open in Montreal on Thursday will be selling marijuana to recreational users despite federal rules that forbid such shops.

Jodie Emery, a marijuana activist who owns the Cannabis Culture brand with her husband Marc Emery, Canada's self-styled "prince of pot," said in an interview the number of outlets will be between five and 10.

She says investors are lining up to open retail outlets as Ottawa forges ahead with plans to legalize marijuana.

"One of our investors has decided to open up franchises in Montreal and we get requests from all across Canada to open in basically every city," Emery said.

Anyone 19 and older will be able to buy marijuana, without membership or medical requirements, she added.

Under current federal legislation, such outlets are illegal and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said the laws will stand until they are changed.

A man washes the store-front windows in Montreal Wednesday where a marijuana shop is expected to open Thursday.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emery, who will be in Montreal for the openings, said neither local police nor city officials have been in touch with her.

"I haven't heard from any law enforcement at all," she said. "I know they've been told by the federal government that all laws across Canada must be enforced so the status quo remains the same."

Montreal police said such dispensaries are not permitted under federal rules governing medical marijuana and that they might intervene if laws are broken.

Asked about the impending arrival of the boutiques, Mayor Denis Coderre said federal laws should apply, but he also cautioned that new marijuana laws are on the way next spring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### CHILD BENEFIT

**Liberals' plan will cost billions more: Watchdog**

The parliamentary budget watchdog says the government's cornerstone child benefit will end up costing billions more after the next election if its value increases with the cost of living. The Canada Child Benefit isn't indexed to inflation for now, and the Liberals haven't agreed to do that until 2020. In a new report, the PBO says keeping up with inflation would cost federal coffers an extra $301 million in 2020, rising to an extra $5.8 billion in 2026.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Lottery to replace visa system

REUNIFICATION

## Spots allotted by random lottery after red flags raised

Coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery in 2017 after the federal Liberals have scrapped the old first-come, first-serve system that had raised concerns over people paying to be at the front of that line.

Applications for the over-subscribed program had been accepted only via courier or mail at a single immigration office, and since they were processed in the order received, couriers had been doing brisk business promising to be at the front of the line, in exchange for fees that could be as high as $400.

But that system has now been replaced by a random draw, the federal immigration minister announced Wednesday.

"We're ensuring everyone can access the application process by giving them the same chance to have their name chosen," Immigration Minister John McCallum said in a statement.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister John McCallum speaks during question period in the House of Commons on Oct. 31. McCallum said Wednesday that coveted spots for the parent and grandparent visa program will be awarded by lottery starting in 2017. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Beginning Jan. 3, Canadians will have 30 days to fill out an online form indicating their desire to sponsor a parent or grandparent. Immigration officials will then randomly draw 10,000 individuals who will then be given 90 days to submit the application.

The change comes after The Canadian Press reported that the previous first-come, first-serve process was seeing couriers charge more than $400 to guarantee applications would be at the top of the pile.

That raised concerns that the visas were going to those who could afford to pay the high fees or camp out for hours at the immigration office.

High demand came in part from the fact the previous Conservative government closed the program entirely between 2011 and 2014 to bring down a massive backlog. It re-opened in 2014 with a annual cap of 5,000 applications. Last year, 14,000 applications were received and the Liberals later raised the cap on the number of applications they would accept to 10,000.

Couriers had already started taking reservations to deliver 2017 applications, with fees ranging from $60 to $200, depending on whether someone wanted to guarantee their application was delivered first.

> "A lot of people had been preparing for this, throughout the year. A lot of people had been rejected in the past and were looking forward to this year."
> Chris Colaco

One company, Metro Mississauga, said it had about 150 reservations already and was now in the process of refunding all fees.

Company owner Chris Colaco said while he understood why the government was making the change, he wondered why it couldn't have been announced earlier. His business doesn't depend on delivering the applications, but Canadians do depend on the program, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MYDEMOCRACY.CA

## Privacy watchdog probing survey

The federal privacy watchdog has opened a formal investigation into the Trudeau government's much-maligned online survey on electoral reform, which asks participants to disclose detailed personal information.

But privacy commissioner Daniel Therrien is not waiting to conclude the investigation before taking action to protect Canadians' privacy.

Therrien has provided preliminary recommendations to the government aimed at better protecting the privacy of people who participate in the MyDemocracy.ca survey, spokeswoman, Valerie Lawton said Wednesday.

Lawton confirmed that Therrien's office will investigate a complaint about the survey and hopes to have the issue resolved as quickly as possible.

A spokesman for Democratic Institutions Minister Maryam Monsef said the government will review Therrien's recommendations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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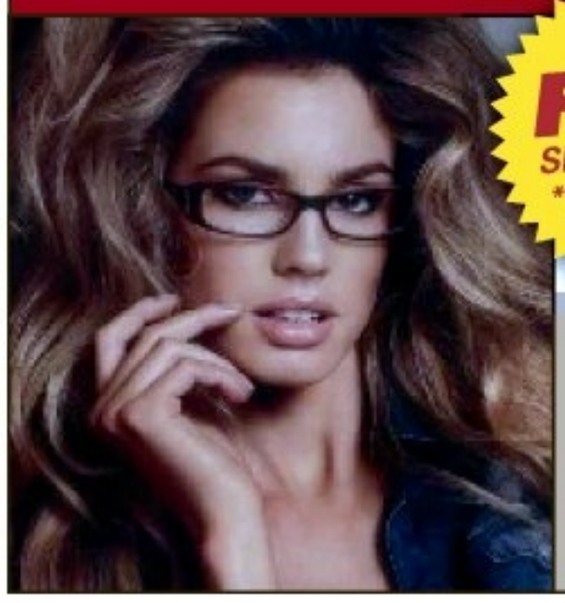

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ROADS

## Indigenous street names won't be 'white washed:' Edmonton official

Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton city planner says officials won't "white wash" proposed indigenous street names, even if some residents have a hard time pronouncing them.

Cory Sousa, a principal planner in sustainable development who manages naming roads, said Tuesday the city's naming committee largely doesn't let pronunciation issues alter approvals for new street names.

"Something hard to pronounce or spell is personal perception," Sousa said.

"We're not going to cater to one group or be colonial. We have to reach out to indigenous people who haven't been represented and honour them. We're not going to white wash it."

Sousa's assertions come a day after Coun. Bryan Anderson requested naming officials re-think the way they name new streets or neighbourhoods, after people complained to him they couldn't say or spell Maskêkosihk (Muss-Kay-Go-See) Trail.

Maskêkosihk translates to "land of the medicines" or "people of the medicines."

Anderson suggested officials choose easier-to-pronounce Cree words or create Anglicized versions for street names that honour indigenous heritage.

## Winnipeg councillor apologizes for TRC training comments

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A Winnipeg city councillor has apologized for saying that training city workers on the legacy of the country's residential school system would take them away from doing their jobs, like filling potholes or cutting the grass.

During a council meeting, Coun. Jeff Browaty said he supports Mayor Brian Bowman's commitment to reconciliation, but said he draws the line at spending extra money to train employees.

Educating public servants and government workers about residential schools and indigenous histories is one initiative listed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report, which council discussed on Wednesday.

"Taking away or paying employees overtime to attend this type of training, taking them away from cutting the grass, filling potholes, providing the services we count on, I don't think that is our position," Browaty said.

Later, he issued a statement apologizing for his comments and clarifying that his concern was about the costs.

"In the course of a year, the City of Winnipeg issues around 10,000 T-4 slips. That would equal 5,000 working days people would be away from their jobs and in this training. I don't think it's necessary for a grass cutter, payroll clerk or pothole filler to take this training," reads the statement.

"I apologize if my comments offended anyone. I simply don't see this as the city's role."

# Residents feel 'duped' by renewed fighting

SYRIA

## Aleppo ceasefire unravels as fighting starts once again

A ceasefire to evacuate rebel fighters and civilians from the remaining opposition-held neighbourhoods of Aleppo unraveled on Wednesday, once again raising the spectre of a bloody end to the battle for Syria's largest city as residents reported the resumption of shelling and brutal bombing runs.

Opponents of President Bashar Assad accused the government and its allies of scuttling the deal by adding new conditions.

However, hours after it crumbled, the rebels said the deal was back on. Three rebel spokesmen said the first group of wounded people and civilians were to be escorted out of the city early Thursday morning. Rebels would follow, they said, adding that the conditions had not changed.

The evacuation was to have begun at dawn Wednesday, but quickly derailed, descending into violence. Residents said government buses arrived in the predawn hours at agreed upon meeting points, where the wounded were first in line to be evacuated. But they were turned away by pro-government militias. Then violence erupted: shelling and then airstrikes. The rebels retaliated, at one point shelling the pro-government villages of Foua and Kfraya in Idlib and detonating a car bomb in a frontline area.

Mohammed Abu Jaafar, head of forensics in eastern Aleppo, said residents felt "duped."

"People have left their shelters .... to be ready for the evacuation. I can't describe it," Abu Jaafar said. "Since the morning, they started to target the areas where people have gathered." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Smoke is seen billowing in the background** on Wednesday in a rebel-held neighbourhood of Aleppo. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Beauty queen muzzled at Miss World: Reports

Canadian beauty queen Anastasia Lin is allowed to smile and look pretty at the Miss World pageant in Washington, but she's reportedly barred from opening her mouth and speaking her mind about human rights abuses in China.

Pageant officials wouldn't connect Torstar with Lin, 26, on Wednesday. Lin was blocked from attending last year's Miss World pageant in China after her criticism of Chinese human rights abuses against Falun Gong practitioners.

American news reports say that she's not allowed to speak with the media this time around.

And the hosts of a film in which she stars say she has been blocked from attending its Washington premiere tonight. The film sharply criticizes Chinese human rights practices and is being presented by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

"We were informed by the organization that she would not be able to attend tonight," Marion Smith, a spokesperson for the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, said on Wednesday.

Smith said that pageant officials hadn't passed on messages to her, despite assurances that they would.

"Their stated reason is that they have rehearsals and they were unable to release her to attend," Smith said.

**American news reports say Anastasia Lin is not allowed to speak with the media this time around.** TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lin, a Chinese-born actress and classically trained pianist, has posted on Twitter and Facebook about human rights conditions in China, especially regarding the Falun Gong meditation system. The Falun Gong is outlawed in China.

Amnesty International is among the human rights groups that has widely reported abuse of Falun Gong practitioners in China.

On Facebook and Twitter, she has posted clips from her film, The Bleeding Edge, in which she plays a Falun Gong practitioner who's locked up and tortured for her beliefs. The organization sponsored the premiere.

She has also accused the Chinese government online of illegally harvesting organs from Falun Gong practitioners.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Newspaper won't stand by Santa story

The Associated Press published a story, relying on information from the Knoxville News-Sentinel, about a man portraying Santa Claus who says a terminally ill boy died in his arms.

The paper now says that it cannot verify the man's story and no longer stands by it.

The story, published in the News-Sentinel on Sunday was about Eric Schmitt-Matzen, who said he had promised to protect the identities of the child's family.

In a story posted online, editor Jack McElroy and columnist Sam Venable said Schmitt-Matzen's story "remains unverified."

They wrote that they could not determine whether his account was accurate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Canadians finally getting Prime time on Amazon

STREAMING VIDEO

## What to watch now the service has launched in Canada

The Vancouver-filmed The Man In The High Castle is one of the Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive on Amazon Prime Video. COURTESY AMAZON

It isn't fair — that has to be what the Canadian broadcast competition is saying now that Amazon Prime Video is officially here. Enjoyed for years in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere, Amazon is a streaming service not unlike Netflix.

Like Netflix, Amazon has courted and partnered with seasoned storytellers and is in business with the best. Canadians got a taste of what all the fuss was about when Transparent and Mozart in the Jungle were reasons to subscribe to Shomi. Once that service pulled the plug, the clock began ticking as to when Amazon would crack the Canadian market.

That day has arrived. First out of the gate is The Grand Tour, a reality motoring series starring notorious Top Gear trio Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May. Beyond that show, here's a tour of some Amazon originals Canadians will want to test drive:

**FLEABAG:**

Phoebe Waller-Bridge dares you to look away. Based on her one-woman play, this six-part British series has pitch-perfect black comedy. It stars Waller-Bridge as an audaciously unlikable young woman trying to survive the mean streets of modern London.

**RED OAKS:**

Set in the '80s, Red Oaks is about a young college student who works summers as a tennis pro at the snooty Red Oaks Country Club. Stealing scenes is Canadian Ennis Esmer (The Listener) who aces his role as the club's charm-dog tennis pro. "Not a sendup of the 1980s," wrote the New York Times, "but a surprisingly straightforward extension of the genre." Season 2 is even better.

**THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE:**

Shot in Vancouver, The Man in the High Castle spent a year as the best show filmed in Canada that Canadians couldn't (legally) see. The premise is an instant grabber: suppose Hitler had won. The drama is set in the early '60s with the U.S. divided on both coasts by Germany and Japan. Season 2 has just begun.

**CRISIS IN SIX SCENES:**

Woody Allen stooping to television? Well, Amazon offered complete creative control. It is no Annie Hall. Miley Cyrus is more Whiny Cyrus as a '60s activist. Allen the actor gamely tries to revive his cowardly, nervous movie shtick, but the real delight is seeing Elaine May shake off the rust.

**GOOD GIRLS REVOLT:**

Still seeking that Mad Men fix? Good Girls Revolt comes close. The series follows a group of young newsmagazine researchers as the women's movement gains momentum in the late '60s. Toronto-born Chris Diamantopoulos (Silicon Valley) is their workaholic editor.

**ONE MISSISSIPPI:**

Fans familiar with stand-up comedian Tig Notaro will want to explore One Mississippi. The "traumedy" finds Notaro confronting her family's shocking secrets as well as her mortality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATA BREACH

## Over billion Yahoo accounts hacked

Yahoo says it believes hackers stole data from more than one billion user accounts in August 2013, in what is thought to be the largest data breach at an email provider.

The California company was also home to what's now most likely the second largest hack in history, one that exposed 500 million Yahoo accounts. The company disclosed that breach in September. Yahoo said it hasn't identified the intrusion associated with this theft.

Yahoo says the information stolen may include names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. It believes bank-account information and payment-card data were not affected.

But the company said hackers may have also stolen passwords from the affected accounts. Technically, those passwords should be secure; Yahoo said they were scrambled twice — once by encryption and once by another technique called hashing. But hackers have become adept at cracking secured passwords by assembling huge dictionaries of similarly scrambled phrases and matching them against stolen password databases. That could mean trouble for any users who reused their Yahoo password for other online accounts.

The new hack revelation raises fresh questions about Verizon's $4.8 billion US proposed acquisition of Yahoo, and whether the big mobile carrier will seek to modify or abandon its bid. If the hacks cause a user backlash against Yahoo, the company's services wouldn't be as valuable to Verizon. The telecom giant wants Yahoo and its many users to help it build a digital ad business.

Yahoo said Wednesday that it is requiring users to change their passwords and invalidating security questions so they can't be used to hack into accounts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

**Ashley Madison's parent pays $1.6M in settlements**

The parent company of infidelity dating site Ashley Madison said it has reached settlements in an investigation led by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Ruby Corp. said it has paid more than $1.6 million US, with half the money going to the FTC and half to the states participating in the probe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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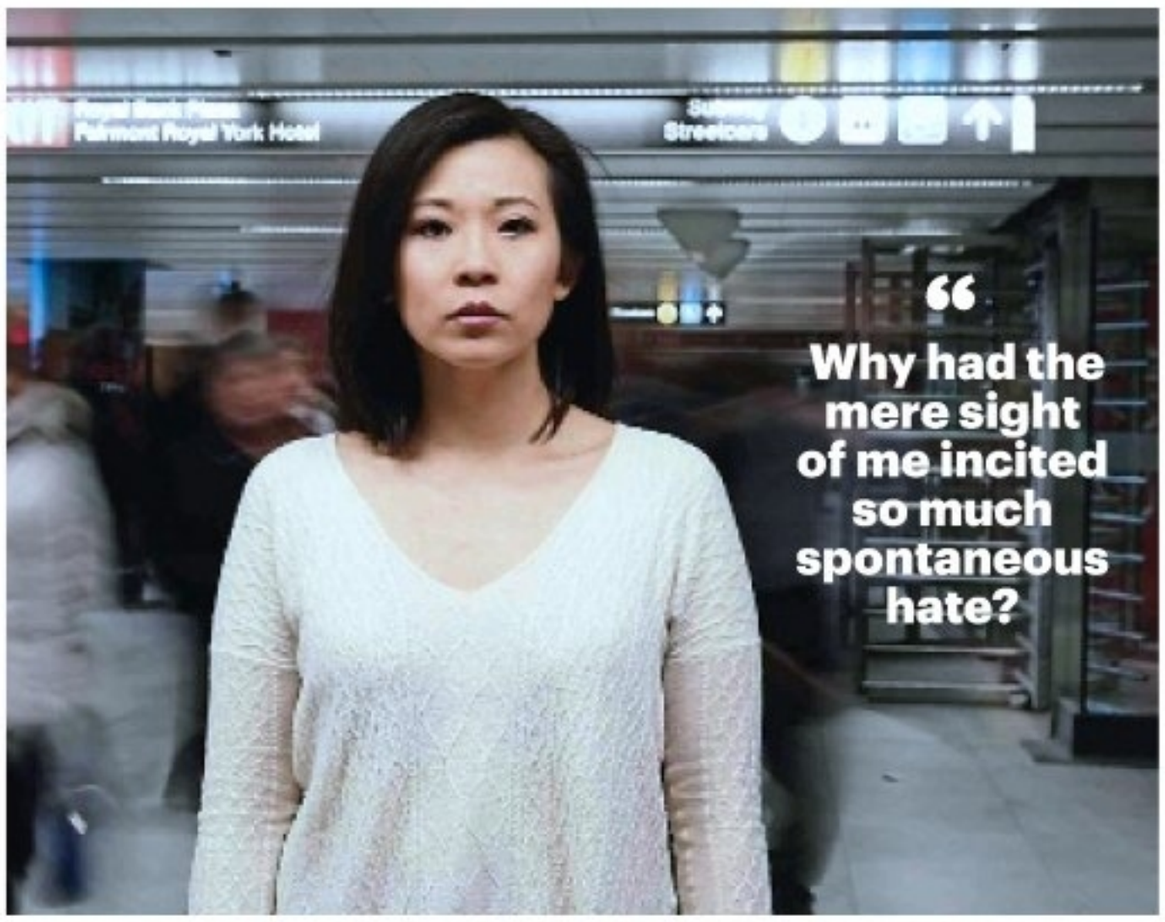
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 15, 2016

REFLECTION

# Ending hate is on all of us

On Wednesday morning, Metro staffer Irene Kuan was the target of a racist remark hurled by a fellow transit rider. She has spent her whole life living and working in Toronto, and this was a first.

**Irene Kuan**
Metro | Toronto




**Irene Kuan, Metro's managing editor, digital,** stands on a Toronto subway platform.
LANCE MCMILLAN/FOR METRO

"Go back to Hong Kong," a raspy voice of a man shouted at me, as I was about to exit the subway Wednesday morning.

It was so out of nowhere that the words didn't even register with me until about five minutes later, when I was outside Union Station in downtown Toronto.

The first thing I actually thought about upon stepping out into the elements was the extreme cold weather alert that had been issued for the city that morning. But then it dawned on me: I'd been the target of a random verbal racist attack.

Working as I do in the news industry, I've been aware of the recent surge in public acts of racism, both in this country and in the United States — pro-"white people" posters on lightposts, spray-painted swastikas, verbal assaults of hijab-wearing women. But, as a Canadian-born Chinese journalist, I'd never really thought about it happening to me.

And then it did. A random person told me to go back to a place I'm not even from. And, at some point in the aftermath, it occurred to me that, no, this actually had happened to me before.

This past summer I was driving down an empty dirt road with my boyfriend in a ghost town called Vroomanton, northwest of Sunderland, Ont., when we suddenly saw a random flash of a middle finger from a Caucasian couple speeding by us on a motorcycle. Then, too, I had a delayed reaction. I realize now that in the moment I was more concerned about being presumptuous, about the possibility of taking offence to a gesture that, perhaps, was not as it had seemed. Others have since told me they'd be outraged if had been in my shoes.

Now, hours after the latest incident, when I think back to the words that man said to me, I really don't know how to react. I'm not angry or upset, just surprised that it happened. Because it's 2016.

Both times, I found myself asking why I had been targeted. I was just going about my own business. I didn't do anything to provoke anybody. Why had the mere sight of me incited in perfect strangers so much spontaneous hate that they felt compelled to act out so randomly and viciously?

I know there's no logical answer; it's a senseless act. What, beyond acknowledging that an awful thing has happened, can I really say or do?

These experiences have led me think of the story of Stephanie Kim, a Toronto woman who was subjected to racial slurs standing in line at a TD bank back in November of this year. In recalling the event to the Toronto Star, Kim said that not even the bank staff, let alone her fellow patrons, came to her defence as a man standing behind her in line called her a "chink." (By the way, Kim is Korean, not Chinese.)

Kim said that, more than the insults themselves; the staff's passive attitude when she complained about the man is what made her feel like a second-class citizen.

It's easy to see that the proliferation of these incidents is the natural by-product of the current political climate, in which some have been led to believe that phrases like "Make America Great Again" and "Canadian Values" are open invitations to promote, and directly express, bigotry and racism.

It's disappointing enough that there are people out there who, having apparently confused their resentment-fuelled desire to spew hate speech with their constitutional right to free speech, act out like this in public.

But even worse is that, collectively, we seem not yet to have realized how dangerous it is to stand by and accept hateful vitriol directed at others. In this way, our society normalizes hatred and resentment. And that's not any one individual's problem.

Neither the victim nor the perpetrator of racist violence, verbal or otherwise, should be expected to assume full responsibility for what all of us should be calling by its true name — hate — and fighting against whenever, wherever and however it appears.

### Metro ain't having it

Have you recently seen, heard or been the target of racist outbursts in your community? If so, how did you address it? How do you wish you addressed it? Tell us all about it. Tweet using the hashtag #ainthavingit or email us: **readers@metronews.ca**

## VICKY MOCHAMA

# Look out, Silicon Valley, Canada Post wants in on the action

A House of Commons committee on Tuesday made recommendations for the future of Canada Post. There are dozens, some of which are things one hopes they're currently doing such as number 38: "Canada Post focus on its core competencies to help Canada meet the challenges of the 21st century."

However, the idea that caught my eye is a suggestion that the company create a "free digital infrastructure," which might mean "providing the basis for a Canadian social network." The committee's actual recommendations don't get into what that looks like or means but I think it's worth exploring.

Canada Post is, for example, ideally suited to run a Canadian version of Tinder. Using a combination of their near-pristine location data, Facebook profiles and types of mail received, Canadians might start hooking up courtesy of the nation's mail delivery service. Imagine the stories. "Kids, I met your grandfather when he swiped right on my profile because he saw that I was a skier who regularly sent express mail."

The marriage rate has been in decline for a while. With a Canada Post dating service (PostDates? Mail and Tail? Just thinking aloud here), we could turn things around for the nation's beleaguered single people.

That may not work for people who are already married unless Canada Post is willing to compete with Ashley Madison.

For Canadians who are already coupled up, Canada Post could run a Snapchat-like service for couples worried whether their Christmas presents will arrive in time. Rather than a tracking number that says that your package has been in Mississauga for far too long, couples can get filtered pictures of their packages as they travel the country. Nothing adds a frisson to marriage like watching a box with a flower crown make its way to your mother-in-law. The excitement is hard to contain.

According to a 2011 piece by the Toronto Star, more than 18,000 wallets end up in Canada Post's Undeliverable Mail Offices. The company tries to reunite them with their owners. Other items, however, are sold off or destroyed after seven months. What if they ran a ChatRoulette-style services for those pieces? Just log in, press a button and you can get seven-months-late invoice from a dentist's office in Lethbridge. Or you could get a hand-stitched quilt from someone's grandmother. Sounds like a lottery with only winners to me.

As the business of mail continues to shift dramatically, it's worth putting every idea on the table. For some, physical mail is a relic of the past but for others, it is still an essential need. A Canada Post with a strong and smart digital presence could marry both worlds.

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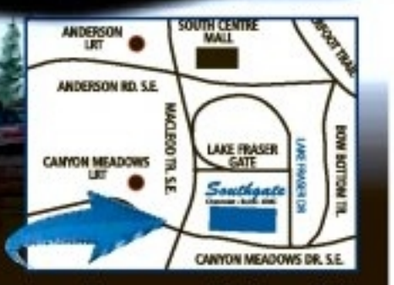


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# Loving Christmas when you're not Christian

Vancouver's Almeera Ismail goes all out for Christmas: she bakes festive cookies, decorates a tree and buys gifts for family. As a Muslim, her love of the holiday grew when she moved to Ottawa as a student, "and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you." JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO; INSET: COURTESY ALMEERA ISMAIL

CULTURE

## Group rituals bind a society together, says religion prof

Megan Haynes
For Metro Canada

Almeera Ismail adores Christmas.

The 30-year-old Vancouver native goes all out: homemade cards, festive cookies, gifts for her nieces, a small tree.

But as a Muslim, Ismail didn't start celebrating until she was in high school when she and her sisters convinced their parents to let them get a Christmas tree. When she went to university in Ottawa, her love of the holiday grew.

"It was when I moved away — and you reach for things that make you feel homey or ground you — that I started to really get into Christmas and the spirit of being around friends and family over the holidays," she says. When her sister entered an inter-faith relationship with a Christian man and the pair had a baby, even Ismail's parents came on board the holiday trend. Now, the whole family celebrates on Christmas Eve, exchanging presents and feasting.

Increasingly, people of all faiths and backgrounds are tuning into Christmas in some form.

A 2011 study by Ottawa-based Abacus, which polled just over 1,000 people, found of the 92 per cent of respondents who said they celebrate the holidays, 52 per cent do not consider themselves Christian.

There are a couple factors at play here, says Christopher Helland, professor of religion in contemporary culture at Dalhousie University. First, as a society, we're becoming more secular: In 2011, Statistics Canada found a quarter of the population said they had no religious affiliation, up from 16 per cent in 2001. Second, we're seeing more people from other faiths arrive in the country: from the last census, 8.8 per cent of the population is of a non-Christian faith, up from 4.8% a decade earlier.

As a result of this shift, society has moved towards a more inclusive season, opting for phrasing like "Happy Holidays," Helland says.

That has offended some people: "Some groups are very upset about that. (They) feel taking the Christ out of Christmas isn't a good thing," he says. However, the shift towards a less religious-filled holiday has made it more acceptable of people of other faiths to participate however they want.

While there are some culturally imposed traditions, such as spending time with family, trees and gift giving, for those of different faith backgrounds wanting to celebrate, it's a great opportunity to build in new rituals without some of the pressures others might face.

"Sometimes the beliefs behind the rituals change, or adapt, take on different meaning. But we certainly like to do the ritual — they are important," Helland says. In fact, allowing the tradition to change and adapt to be more inclusive can help be a bridge in society, he says.

It's not a new idea: an early sociologist, Emile Durkheim, said at the turn of the 20th century that in the absence of a religious tie, in a modernist society these group rituals become the things that bind a society together.

"It's pushed on us pretty heavily that 'This is the holidays, this where you do the gift giving and be with family," says Helland "It's hard to not be part of that if you're part of our society and culture."

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# 5 ROCKING READS FOR THE MUSIC LOVER IN YOUR LIFE

It's only rock 'n' roll but we like it — and equally we like reading about the inside story of performers, songs and scenes. From Bowie to The Band and The Stones to the blues — plus a deep dive under the 6ix — here are some page turners for groovers and movers alike. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## 1 Interview

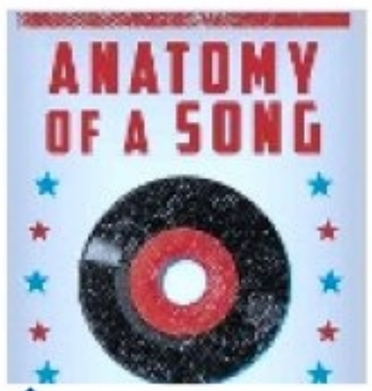
**David Bowie: The Last Interview and Other Conversations** is a series of 10 interviews with the late icon that begins in 1964 when he was 16 and still David Jones; his last was in 2006 with Ricky Gervais, a jokey exchange to promote Bowie's appearance on Gervais's show Extras. In 2004 Bowie had a heart attack on stage, after which he stopped performing and giving interviews. But during the preceding 40 decades he had an open relationship with the press, as this collection attests.

## 2 Chronicle

When he was between the ages of 20 and 25, Derek von Essen and his Ricoh 35 mm SLR camera were fixtures on the Toronto club scene. Writer Phil Saunders arrived in Toronto, around the same age, around the same time, wanting to "shake things up and shout at the moon." Their energizing chronicle of the period is **No Flash, Please!: Underground Music in Toronto 1987-92**.

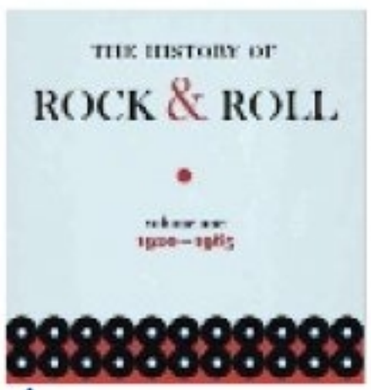
## 3 Memoir

Guitarist/songwriter Robbie Robertson's memoir, **Testimony**, begins in 1960 when he was age 16 and on a train out of Toronto headed for Arkansas for an audition with Ronnie Hawkins's rockabilly crew. It swings back to Robertson's youth, then careens forward through his years with the Hawks, touring with Bob Dylan in 1966, the creation of The Band and plenty more.




## 4 Compilation

Marc Myers' compilation of the Wall Street Journal's smart column **Anatomy of a Song: The Oral History of 45 Iconic Hits That Changed Rock, R & B and Pop**, is built on a simple idea — that we all want to know the real story, told by insiders, about the songs we love. It includes Mick Jagger describing what inspired him to write Moonlight Mile in 1971.




## 5 History

Ed Ward, the historian for NPR's Fresh Air for 35 years, begins **The History of Rock & Roll, Vol. 1: 1920-1963** in the '20s, when blues, country and black music ruled the southern airwaves; it concludes in December 1963, just as the Beatles were packing for their first North American tour. Ward hopes that readers use it as a gateway to deeper investigation.

DARE To Be SQUARE!

*Square Dancing is fun set to music.*

**You can give it a try at the free introductory events during Calgary Square Dance Week, September 21-25, 2015!**

As in the picture, four couples form a square and then dance to directions given by a "caller". The music ranges from traditional to modern, and always has a solid beat.

At a beginner-level dance, the caller starts by teaching basic moves, such as Circle Left, Circle Right and Forward & Back. When the dancers are comfortable with these moves, the caller gradually adds new ones to make the dancing more interesting.

Every evening, during Square Dance Week, there will be a free dance, hosted by one of the local clubs. Couples and singles are welcome and dress is casual. The week will wind up with a free city-wide Dance Party on Friday, September 25 at McDougall United Church (8516 Athabasca Street SE), starting at 7:30 pm.

If you enjoy these introductory events and would like to learn to square dance, the local clubs offer affordable lessons from September to April every year.

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# She had 'brains, beauty and breeches'

INTERVIEW

## Canada's Aloha Wanderwell was first woman to drive the globe

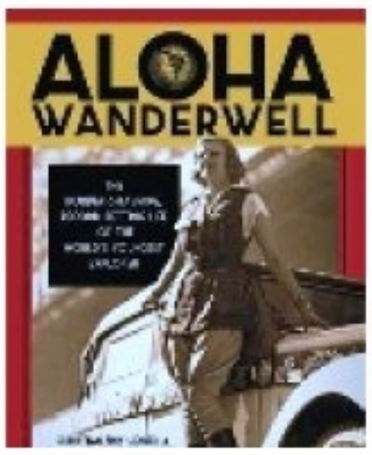
Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

With her blond ringlets, Kewpie-doll lips and statuesque height, Aloha Wanderwell could be a Hollywood invention, leaning against a Ford Model-T, all sass and swagger. But what her 1920s publicity photo doesn't reveal — and what has, for the most part, been buried in history — is that at the age of 16, Wanderwell embarked on an adventure that, among her many records, would make her the first woman to drive around the world, covering 380,000 miles and 80 countries before the age of 30.

Back in 1998, Vancouver television producer Randolph Eustace-Wallace, co-author of the book Aloha Wanderwell: The Border-Smashing, Record-Setting Life of the World's Youngest Explorer, was using the brand-new Google search engine to research his own adventure when he stumbled onto her story.

Eustace-Wallace was looking for information on driving around the world when his cousin called from Ontario needing help with travel plans to Hawaii. He entered "Aloha Airlines" into Google, which mixed with his online search for driving, and up popped a story about Wanderwell. Intrigued, he saved the link, but it wasn't until a couple years later, when he partnered with journalist Christian Fink-Jensen, his co-author on Aloha Wanderwell, did their decade of detective work begin in earnest.

At this point, the duo didn't know that Wanderwell was originally named Idris Hall, born in Winnipeg in 1906, or that her husband had been jailed as a German spy (and later murdered). None of that is mentioned in her 1939 ghostwritten autobiography, Call To Adventure.




"The ghostwriter tarted it up, and added a lot of fiction, made it more melodramatic," says Eustace-Wallace. "When we first read it, we thought, 'It's too bad she's such a terrible writer,' but as it turns out, she was incredible."

Wanderwell's story is so incredible it doesn't require embellishment. In 1922, while the bored teenager was attending school, she answered an ad looking for women with "Brains, Beauty & Breeches" to accompany Captain Ralph Wanderwell — whom she would eventually marry — as a driver and secretary on his international expeditions.

"For 10 years, their escapades were front-page news," says Eustace-Wallace. And yet, he and Fink-Jensen found plenty of conflicting information during their arduous research process, mainly because Wanderwell had reinvented her own personal history. "It's difficult to tell a non-fiction story about someone who tried to keep their life under wraps," he says.

As it turns out, the key to unlocking Aloha's mystery was Wanderwell's children. In order to gain access to films produced by Wanderwell that had been bequeathed to the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian, Eustace-Wallace and Fink-Jensen needed permission from her two offspring. When Valri, who lived in Honolulu at the time, discovered that the two writers were Canadian, she embraced their request. As it turns out, she and her brother Nile, now in their 80s, had been raised on Vancouver Island, and still had fond memories of their early years.

**Forgotten Canadian adventurer Aloha Wanderwell.** CONTRIBUTED

The writers and children became close. During one trip to Honolulu, Valri appeared with a dusty tin box she had recently discovered that was labelled with her mother's initials. Eustace-Wallace picked the lock and discovered the "Rosetta Stone": Wanderwell's original passport containing every border crossing (many of which were contrary to other reports), her logbooks and a draft of an unpublished memoir. they had all the details needed to shed light on one of Canada's most incredible adventurers. As Eustace-Wallace concludes, "It's the story of someone who was lost to history, and shouldn't be."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

# Read all about it — best of 2016

Loading up on books is an easy way to get through the gift-buying Christmas season. But, where to start? Right here. We highlight some of the year's finest reads. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## BESTSELLERS

**The Nest by Cynthia d'Aprix Sweeney, Ecco**

This story about four siblings, the Plumb family, squabbling over a trust fund they're weeks away from inheriting, garnered attention even before this debut book was published.

**In A Dark, Dark Wood by Ruth Ware, Simon & Schuster**

A psychological drama about a woman invited to a bachelorette party for an old friend, held in a glass house deep in a forest. Ware's got another crime thriller coming out in Canada at the beginning of January: The Woman in Cabin 10.

**The Couple Next Door by Shari Lapena, Doubleday Canada**

Reminiscent of the Madeleine McCann story — in this thriller a couple head next door to their neighbours' for dinner, leaving their six-month-old baby sleeping in her cot. Every parent's worst nightmare is tackled in this gripping read.

**Still Mine by Amy Stuart, Simon & Schuster**

Toronto writer Stuart debuted with a tense thriller about a woman who escapes an abusive husband by creating an elaborate exit. Here's the idea: Clare, on the run from her husband and her own life, shows up in a remote town and asks about Shayna, a girl who's gone missing. No one in the town knows anything about Clare, but everyone has a secret.

## COFFEE TABLE BOOKS

**The Art of Movement**

Photographs of dancers from modern ballet companies — New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Royal Danish Ballet, Royal Ballet, among others — taken by photographers Ken Browar and Deborah Ory. Close-up photos of toes en pointe, bulging calf muscles, to stop motion images of a leap, to portraits of two dancers wrapped around each other are accompanied by inspirational words from dancers, choreographers.

**Pounce**

Seth Casteel's pictures of animals have become a global phenomenon. Pounce is for the cat lover — or kitten lover, to be accurate. This book follows in the footsteps of his others featuring astonishing shots of kittens pouncing: in mid-air.

**Fashion Designers A-Z**

Part history, part photography book, part encyclopedia, this substantial — and very beautiful — volume by Valerie Steele is stunning in both its breadth and detail featuring items from the permanent collection of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Containing entries on everyone from Giorgio Armani to Vivienne Westwood, there are also essays on the rise of the fashion museum helping to explain our interest and providing context.

**The Art of Blues**

The music might be the initial draw — but the art that accompanied the rise of the blues throughout the 20th century also tracks social history (generic LP covers, for example, were the only way albums could be displayed in segregated southern record stores). From liner notes and record sleeves to posters and promo photos, Bill Dahl introduces us to the earliest recordings from piano great Eubie Blake to the three kings — Albert, BB and Freddie.

## INTERESTS

**Les Diners de Gala, Salvador Dali**

Quirky? Love art? Yes, it's a Salvador Dali cookbook. This one has recipes that have all been tested, although it might take someone brave to try some of them.

**The Joyful Living Colouring Book by Teva Harrison**

For those who haven't yet embraced the adult colouring book phenomenon, this is a lovely way to ease into it. The images are on one side of the page only, so suitable for framing.

**Canoes: A Natural History in North America by Mark Neuzil and Norman Sims**

Canoe ephemera is sprinkled throughout this book which documents the evolution of this particular form of transportation by indigenous peoples, its influence on North American settlers and even a look at canoe tripping throughout the centuries.

**1000 Places to See in the United States and Canada Before You Die by Patricia Schultz**

For the armchair traveller or inveterate planner it has plenty of pictures and descriptions, with recommendations of places to stay and eat, what to see, and price points.

**A Taste of Haida Gwaii, by Susan Musgrave**

Poet Susan Musgrave lives on Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands) and operates a bed and breakfast there. She's made a study and cuisine of the local food and shares stories on everything from foraging for mushrooms to making jams to how recipes came about.

## FOR THE LITTLE ONES

**Sleep Tight Farm: A Farm Prepares for Winter, by Eugenie Doyle, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander**

Doyle celebrates the tasks that go into preparing a small farm for winter in this engaging book. The whole family pitches in to cover strawberry beds, fortify beehives, stock the farm stand and more.

**They All Saw a Cat, written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel**

How strange vision is! Wenzel observes in this account of how differently various creatures see a cat. With rhythmic, lilting text and art "rendered in almost everything imaginable" (the artist says), Wenzel changes the perspectives of all viewers.

**The Steadfast Tin Soldier, by Hans Christian Andersen, retold and illustrated by JooHee Yoon**

In this tale of devotion and fiery union, a toy soldier loses his love — a doll — when he falls out the window, but his subsequent journey finally leads him home and the two are united forever.

**The Great Antonio, written and illustrated by Elise Gravel**

Gravel comically and poignantly celebrates this Croatian immigrant to Canada with stylish graphics and respect for Antonio's power and vulnerabilities.

**Book Uncle and Me, written by Uma Krishnaswami, with illustrations by Julianna Swaney**

Every day, Yasmin borrows a book from Book Uncle, who's set up a free library. But when the city demands he buy a business licence, he has to close. What can Yasmin do?

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

# Schumer picks battle: women are people too

**THE SHOW: Amy Schumer Live at the Apollo (HBO) Dec. 15**
**THE MOMENT: Debunking the label**

Amy Schumer tackles gender parity norms. CONTRIBUTED

"I'm labeled a sex comic," Amy Schumer says on stage. She wears a short black dress and tall nude pumps, and occasionally swigs from a wine bottle. "I think it's just because I'm a girl. A guy could get up here and literally pull his [junk] out and everyone would be like, 'He's a thinker.'

"I think sex is explained incorrectly as far as men's and women's roles go," she continues. "We're told over and over, 'Men love sex, women just deal with it.' Every sitcom, the guy gets home from work: 'Honey, how 'bout tonight?' And she's always, 'Bleah,' laundry, laundry.

"It's insane," Schumer concludes. "Every girl I know loves having sex. But you're made to feel disgusting and weird. What girl would say, 'No, I don't want to feel the one good thing we're allowed as humans'?"

I'm editing a bit here. Schumer says those lines, but she surrounds them with unprintable tangents, about how she has to treat artists' erections like souffles and other such bawdiness. And while you're laughing at the raunch, she's sneaking in the feminism.

Schumer is a sex comic in one important regard: because she's made sex the final, funniest battleground in the gender-parity wars. She repeatedly tackles it on her series, but in this one-hour special she distills it to its essence.

Its essence is this: Women are allowed to feel everything men are, because women are people. That's the truly shocking thing about Schumer's routine — it's nearly 2017, and that idea still feels subversive.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

## BOOK BRIEF

**No pictures but Novak is back with a new release**

B.J. Novak is back to his old tricks.

The actor and million-selling author is following up his beloved, all-words The Book with No Pictures with The Alphabet Book with No Pictures, Penguin Young Readers said on Tuesday.

The new work, which Penguin calls a "non-traditional" approach to teaching kids about language, is scheduled for publication next September.

In a statement issued through his publisher, Novak said he wanted young people to think of words as "funny, exciting and powerful."

Novak, whose acting credits range from The Office to Quentin Tarantino's cult hit Inglourious Basterds, has also written the story collection One More Thing.

In 2015, he and former Office co-star and on-off partner Mindy Kaling reached a deal reportedly worth upwards of $7.5 million to write about their long friendship and former relationship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAPHIC NOVEL

# Annoyed Hook Jaw a rip-off of Jaws

**Hook Jaw**
**By:** Si Spurrier and Conor Boyle
**Publisher:** Titan Comics
($3.99)

**Mike Donachie**
Metro | Canada

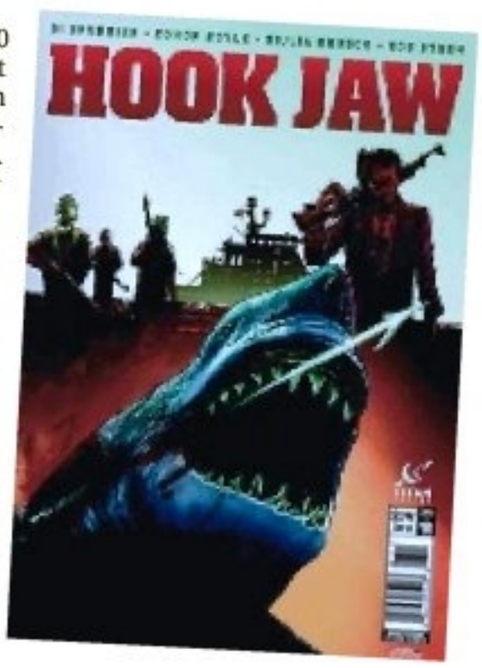
Imagine a comic book so violent that it caused a national controversy in the U.K., including hysterical condemnations in the national press and an eventual ban by its own publisher.

Now move forward 40 years, and imagine if it came back, written by an alumnus of zombie horror porn series Crossed. That's Hook Jaw, a new ongoing series that has its first issue this week.

The title character is a great white shark, and a blatant rip-off of Jaws, because that's how British comics worked in the 1970s. But this shark, as the name suggests, has a vicious hook embedded in its mouth, leaving it enormously annoyed with everyone and crazed with blood lust.

Hook Jaw first appeared in Action, an anthology so controversial that it only lasted 26 issues. The original strip was pretty much a series of grisly deaths, but now it has added plot in a five-issue series written by magnificent horrorist Si Spurrier.

The carnage takes place off Somalia, and apparently involves pirates, the U.S. Navy and some scientists. But I'll be rooting for Hook Jaw, making a welcome return.



LEGACY

# Sporting icons pay tribute to Thicke

Canadian entertainer Alan Thicke — a longtime sports fan with a strong connection to the hockey world — was remembered fondly by the sports community Wednesday.

Thicke, from Kirkland Lake, Ont., died Tuesday at age 69. Hockey legend and longtime friend Wayne Gretzky offered his thoughts in a post on Twitter.

"Janet & I are deeply saddened to hear of Alan's passing. He was a wonderful man, father, husband and friend. He will be missed by all. RIP Alan," Gretzky tweeted.

A photo of the actor with Gretzky, Phil Esposito and Gordie Howe — all wearing all-star uniforms — was posted on the NHL's Twitter feed.

"In addition to being a passionate fan, Alan was an energetic participant in many of our events, including all-star, charity games and awards shows," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement. "He frequently attended games, and was with us as recently as September's World Cup.

"Alan always displayed humour and grace and he will be greatly missed. We send condolences to Alan's wife, Tanya, and the rest of his family as well as to his countless friends and the multitudes he entertained."

Thicke told MLB.com last year that he named his youngest son Carter, after former Blue Jays great Joe Carter and former Montreal Expos catcher Gary Carter.

"I was sitting in the bathtub," Thicke said. "We knew that we were having a boy and we were wrestling with a name and what would we do. And then I'm watching a documentary on the sports channel about Canadian baseball heroes ... and sure enough, Joe Carter, for hitting those home runs, and Gary Carter, being a great Expo catcher.

"And I said, 'Eureka!' Out of the tub and we have a name for the kid."

Joe Carter said Thicke shared that story with him when they met at a golf tournament a few years ago in Las Vegas. They became friends and Thicke often participated in Carter's annual charity golf tournament in the Toronto area.

"Our lives are better because of him," Carter said Wednesday from Kansas City. "My life is better because of him. I mean, he put a smile on my face. Those are things that I'll always remember." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## CELEBS ON INSTA

**Doherty opens up on fight**

Shannen Doherty is giving an up-close look at her fight against breast cancer.

The former Beverly Hills, 90210 actress shared an Instagram photo Tuesday of herself in a hospital gown alongside her mother. She wrote that she was undergoing another day of radiation adding, "Today my mom came with me because Even though I'm so tired after, I'm going Christmas shopping!!!" THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;INSTAGRAM/THESHANDO

# Manchester storms back with Screen Actors nods

NOMINATIONS

## La La Land hits wrong note as Guild opts for Affleck and co.

La La Land may have hit all the right notes for the Golden Globes, but the Screen Actors Guild sung a different tune Wednesday, when Kenneth Lonergan's New England-set family drama Manchester by the Sea picked up the most nominations. Its leading four nods included best ensemble cast, best actor for Casey Affleck and best supporting performances for Michelle Williams and Lucas Hedges.

Barry Jenkins' coming-of-age tale Moonlight and Denzel Washington's August Wilson adaptation Fences followed with three each, including ensemble. They'll be competing with the fact-based NASA crowd-pleaser Hidden Figures and the family drama Captain Fantastic. Shut out of the coveted ensemble award was Damien Chazelle's candy-coloured musical La La Land, which scored nominations only for its leads, Emma Stone and London, Ont.-native Ryan Gosling.

Sophia Bush and Common announced the nominees early Wednesday morning in West Hollywood, California.

In the past, SAG nominees have served as helpful predictors of who will land nominations in the four Oscar acting categories.

While some categories looked generally as expected, like the supporting actress nods for Williams, Fences' Viola Davis, Moonlight's Naomie Harris, Lion's Nicole Kidman and Hidden Figures' Octavia Spencer, others were quite surprising.

In the lead actress category, Annette Bening failed to pick up a nomination for 20th Century Women. Bening had been an assumed lock for an Oscar nomination and had been considered a top contender against front-runners Natalie Portman (Jackie) and Stone (La La Land), both of whom were recognized. Instead, SAG nominated Emily Blunt for the adapted thriller The Girl on the Train, which scored tepid reviews from critics and had not been seen as a major awards contender. Meryl Streep (Florence Foster Jenkins) and Amy Adams (Arrival) were also nominated.

Lead actors nominated were Affleck, Gosling, Andrew Garfield (Hacksaw Ridge), Viggo Mortensen (Captain Fantastic) and Denzel Washington (Fences).

On the supporting side for actors, Moonlight's Mahershala Ali continues to dominate the category with another nomination. He'll be competing against Manchester's Hedges, Jeff Bridges for Hell or High Water, Dev Patel for Lion and Hugh Grant for Florence Foster Jenkins.

Also missing were nominations for Jeff Nichols' fact-based civil rights film Loving and its leads Ruth Negga and Joel Edgerton, as well as for French actress Isabelle Huppert, who has won many of the critics' awards for her performance in the edgy Elle.

On the television side, series newcomers The Crown, Westworld and Stranger Things all picked up three nominations each, alongside Emmys favourite The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story and Game of Thrones. Both Winona Ryder and Millie Bobby Brown will be up against one another in the same acting category for Netflix's Stranger Things.

The 23rd annual Screen Actors Guild Awards take place Jan. 29 from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Michelle Williams was nominated for best supporting actress for Manchester By the Sea while Moonlight's Mahershala Ali also made the cut for supporting actor.** HANDOUTS

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Navy, copper, climbing plants declared top trends on Pinterest 100 list

MEET THE CONDO

THE IVY

# Ivy league living

CONTRIBUTED

## Project overview

The Ivy is a unique opportunity to live in a new and desirable inner-city community at a competitive price point. Each unit features a main floor designed for entertaining and everyday living. Upper levels feature generously sized bedrooms and luxurious master suites.

## Housing amenities

Each unit will have a private single or double car garage, as well as a private balcony. The Ivy will also feature a central courtyard with play area, community garden and gathering spaces, which is perfect for getting to know your neighbours.

## Location and transit

Located in The University District — a mindfully-made, master-planned community in the heart of the city —the Ivy will be easily accessible via established bus routes along 32 Avenue. The site is close to the University LRT station as well as near major roadways such as Shaganappi Trail, Memorial Drive and Crowchild Trail.

## In the neighbourhood

This is a true live-work-play community with all amenities nearby. The 200-acre development is only the third in Canada to receive LEED-ND certification — the highest level of sustainability excellence in energy and water consumption, recycling, connectivity and walkability.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

### NEED TO KNOW

**What:** Urban Townhomes in the University District
**Builder:** Brookfield Residential
**Location:** 32nd Avenue and West Campus Gate/39th Street NW
**Building:** Urban townhomes
**Sizes:** 1,343 to 1,857 Sq. ft.
**Pricing:** From $500,000
**Suites:** Two and three bedroom plans, with single and double private garages
**Status:** Pre-construction
**Sales Centre:** Located at 3028 Parkdale Blvd NW
**Hours:** Monday - Thursday: 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. weekends and holidays: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
**Email:** theivy@brookfieldrp.com
**Phone:** 403-455-4543

REAL ESTATE

# What's hot on the market

### 1 MOVE-IN READY THIS YEAR

**The Smith by Grosvenor:** Located at 850 16th Ave. S.W, The Smith is perfectly located inner city and with just 5 per cent down for a limited time, these won't last long. Stay tuned for the new Presentation Centre opening early 2017 at the Smith building.

### 2 NOW SELLING

**Ezra on Riley Park by Birchwood:** Ezra on Riley Park is a new collection of modern residences in the heart of one of Calgary's most sought-after communities in Kensington. This project will be move-in ready in 2017 so visit the Presentation Centre at the 2nd floor of 1145 Kensington Cres. N.W.

### 3 PRE-SELLING

**STEPS in Bridgeland:** This collaborative project is designed by award-winning architect Jeremy Sturgess and is set to transform the landscape of Bridgeland with its 122 contemporary townhouses. Visit the Discovery Centre at 921 -1st Ave N.E.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

# This ain't your dad's rec room

LIVING SPACES

## Gaming areas and gyms popular ways to use space

When asked to build a luxury home for a house tour this year, designer Kenyon Woods opted to include a rec room — but not the rec room of his childhood.

Unlike old-time rec rooms with their wood paneling, ceiling tiles, box TVs and cast-off furniture, this one measures about 800 square feet on the main floor, with space for watching TV, shooting pool, rock climbing and more.

"Media rooms used to be off by themselves," said Woods, owner of Authentic Custom Homes in Oklahoma City.

"I'm tired of the theatre or game room being separated. Today, families want to be together" even if they're doing different activities.

Recreation rooms of all shapes and sizes are popular in new homes, according to a recent survey by U.S. Houzz and Home, an online source of interior design photos and decor ideas.

Gaming and entertainment spaces, gyms and playrooms were among the top uses for rec rooms, it said.

Clients often want "several different areas in one large, open space," agreed Kristen DuChemin, design director for the Columbus, Ohio, homebuilder Romanelli & Hughes.

For some, that means adding game tables like foosball, shuffleboard, air hockey and billiards.

Chance Pack, spokesman for game manufacturer Valley Dynamo in Richland Hill, Texas, says sales of game tables, which dipped during the recession, have seen an uptick as the home-building industry rebounds.

Parents and grandparents like gaming tables, he said, because they are interactive and intergenerational, luring kids away from electronics and into family activities.

"People are really focused on the entertainment aspect of their home," Pack said.

All seven homes constructed for the Street of Dreams Home Tour included recreation rooms, said Elisa Milbourn, director of education and special events for the Central Oklahoma Home Builders Association in Oklahoma City.

Furniture makers have responded with multi-functional pieces that aim to get the most out of a space, said Patricia Bowling, a spokeswoman for the American Home Furnishings Alliance, in High Point, N.C.

Portable bars and high-top tables with stools have become popular, she said.

"Whether entertaining means kids' birthday parties or adult cocktail parties, bar furniture is an affordable alternative to the expense of built-ins," she said.

"A portable bar provides a serving counter, sitting/dining space, storage and more."

Minneapolis interior designer Billy Beson also recommends tables with built-in game boards and bean-bag chairs, which are great for TV viewing and can easily be moved when not in use.

Keeping a space flexible is a priority, he said.

"The rec room is back and definitely here to stay," he said. "There's a need for that space to watch a movie, play a game or have a party."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Recreation rooms are gaining popularity in new home builds. AUTHENTIC CUSTOM HOMES VIA AP

> **I'm tired of the theatre or game room being separated. Today, families want to be together.**
> Kenyon Woods

### ISLAND TIME

**Kitchen islands also are playing a role in rec rooms says Patricia Bowling.**

**Surfaces**
They can provide seating or a flat surface for serving food, and have space to store games or dishes. If there isn't space for an island or a bar, a beverage cart can be useful, Bowling said.

**Mobile**
"You can use them as a nightstand next to a bed or in the kitchen or outfitted as a bar. You move it around as needed," she said.

# Fit some cheer into your tiny space

HOLIDAYS

## Creating focal points key to avoiding clutter

Piling on the holiday decor may be the most obvious way to decorate the home for the season, but for those with limited floor or wall space, too much finery can feel "a bit invasive," says designer Karl Lohnes.

The solution for small spaces, he suggests, is to pay attention to scale and create focal points. Lohnes did just that when dressing the 650-square-foot main floor of his own townhome, a space that incorporates the entrance, kitchen and living and dining rooms.

"Dotting things everywhere makes a smaller space look more cluttered, at Christmas or any time of year. So don't just, for example, pop cards here and there. I put up strings on the wall near my front door and hang cards there to make an impact," says Lohnes.

Designer Jo Alcorn may be thinking about larger-scale holiday décor — she just decorated the Table Rock Welcome Centre for Niagara Falls' Winter Festival of Lights — but she, too, recommends "focused" seasonal décor in small spaces.

**Adding some glitter to the table is a simple way to bring a festive feel into your home, even if you don't have a ton of space.** COURTESY HOMESENSE

"Tabletop decor is a great solution if you are short on floor space," Alcorn says. "You can use dining, side and coffee tables — all of them can incorporate holiday decor. I love putting a small tree on a table top — it adds interest and romance and works well for families with animals or young children."

For homes that don't have room for a wide-hipped tree, Lohnes likes to go tall and skinny, pointing to a 2.7-metre, pre-lit Dawson Pencil Pine tree from Walmart. Placing the tree on top of a box, which Lohnes wrapped in a faux-fur throw, gives it even more height.

Home Depot also offers a space-saving tree, with one flat side that stands up against a wall.

> **I say bring on the sparkle — along with the peace on earth, please.**
> Cori Halpern

Lohnes owns an antique silver punch bowl that only gets used once or twice a season, so he makes it do double duty this time of year. Framed by gold and silver Christmas crackers, it's topped with inexpensive unbreakable ornaments from Walmart. First, Lohnes filled the bottom of the bowl with newspapers and layered baubles on top.

Lohnes also likes to create a "portable Christmas tray" filled with candles, nuts, potpourri and greenery.

"It can go from being a centrepiece in the dining room to a coffee table to a credenza. It's a way to have holiday in every room without having to decorate them all."

For holiday get-togethers in tight spaces, designer/stylist Janette Ewen — who jet-sets between her L.A.-based design studio Parker Barrow and a small footprint Toronto condo — also likes to marry décor with food and drink.

She makes garden urns stand in as ice buckets, using them to create drink stations.

"It looks great, eliminates servers and keeps guests from backlogging a bar," says Ewen, who will also serve guests glasses of Ruffino Prosecco with fruit-flavoured popsicles dropped in — a fun presentation that does away with the punch bowl.

Designer Cori Halpern keeps holiday décor restrained, yet she does love seasonal shimmer.

In her small Toronto house, she displays her collection of menorahs, placing them — wherever possible — near windows, where passersby can see them. She also piles LED strings into hurricane lamps, and fills glass vases with dreidels or shiny silver and gold-wrapped Hanukkah gelt.

She favours metallic tones — especially coppery golds — for the holidays.

"A lot of people don't have metallics in their home at any other time of year, but they work with any décor — traditional, modern and anything in between. So I say bring on the sparkle — along with the peace on earth, please."

GIFTS

# What to get for your favourite gardener

**Mark Cullen**
Torstar News Service

Making up Christmas gift lists can be a pain. My kids say they have trouble buying for me because I seem to have everything I want — and if I need a new tie, I just go buy one. Perception is their reality: I haven't bought a new tie in years.

I do have a gift suggestion that works great for me, and that I'll share with you: "I don't want you to buy me anything. All I want for Christmas is you."

> **Offer to plant a gardener's garden come spring. Or dig the holes, do some weeding or pruning.**

This is how it has worked for me: I have a son-in-law who is a green architect. He ventured into the field with an eye to making the planet a greener place. "Martin," I said to him, "why not take me on a bicycle tour of 'green' buildings in Toronto. Show me your favourites and explain why they are so special." He did, and we had a wonderful day.

Another son-in-law loves to play golf. "Rene," I said, "how about taking me out for a game of golf and we just enjoy that time together." We did and it was wonderful.

Here are other suggestions for gifts of time:

**A trip to a park**
Not just any old park but one with flowers and heritage trees. Tour a local community or allotment garden, in season. The Leslie Street Spit provides the perfect place for nosy gardeners like me to poke around and pick up all kinds of wonderful ideas for our own gardens.

**One-on-one gardening**
Offer to plant a gardener's garden come spring. Or dig the holes, do some weeding or pruning, or fertilize the lawn. You get the idea. YOU are the gift: your time, talent and energy.

**Bee hotel**
This idea is taking off across the country, and I take full credit for it. Take just about any old stuff you have around the garage and build a habitat for beneficial insects and small animals, such as toads, frogs, snakes and salamanders. Remember: the secret to attracting "beneficials" is rot and decay. Most of us have old bricks, sand, flagstone, lumber, firewood, mouldy cardboard or what-have-you lying around somewhere. If you're a gardener, you're also one of the easiest people to buy for. Here are a few other gift ideas:

Less than $20: Garden gloves (good ones). Cheap ones are a waste.

Plus: Stainless-steel garden scoop, hand trowel, short-handled garden fork or cultivator, garden twine and dispenser, clay pots, hummingbird feeder, quality birdseed, bee hotel, lawn sprinklers and handheld hose end nozzles.

Less than $50: A back hoe (my version of the ultimate weeding/planting tool), quality watering can (check out the Haws brand), quality hand pruners and tree loppers, bird feeders, butterfly habitat, terrarium planter kit, balcony planters, window boxes, stainless-steel digging tools and frankly this list could go on and on.

*Mark Cullen is an expert gardener, Order of Canada recipient, author and broadcaster. Get his free monthly newsletter at markcullen.com. Look for his new bestseller, The New Canadian Garden, published by Dundurn Press.*

### LESS THAN $10

**Dirt bag**
You think I'm kidding? You can buy very good quality soil for less than $10. Look for a brand you trust.

**Plus ...**
Flexible plant ties, plant ID stakes, spiral tomato stake, lawnmower scraper, box of plant fertilizer, several seed packets (with a seed catalogue, free), Harrowsmith's Almanac or Garden Making (Canadian) magazine.

**Hand trowels and gardening forks are always useful.** ISTOCK

metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news
Exclusively at Varsity

# Dubois 'mentally ready' to lead Team Canada

WORLD JUNIORS

## No. 3 overall draft pick looks to spark his game

Highly rated prospect Pierre-Luc Dubois hasn't dominated the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League since his return from the Columbus Blue Jackets camp, but he has a chance to make up for it at the world junior championship.

The big centre, who will reportedly be traded by the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles to the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada on Sunday, has a decent, but hardly overwhelming, six goals and 18 points in 20 QMJHL games this season, well off-pace from the 42 goals and 99 points he put up in 62 games last season.

That performance prompted the Blue Jackets to skip over higher-ranked Jesse Puljujarvi and take Dubois third overall in the NHL draft in June.

"It's never easy to come back to junior from the NHL," Canadian junior coach Dominique Ducharme said of Dubois. "There's always a period to adapt and to bring your mind back to it.

"He wanted to be playing in the NHL and that's quite normal, right? So there are a lot of mental things to go through when you face that. I saw that with (Jonathan) Drouin when he came back to Halifax (from the Tampa Bay Lightning). It took him a month, or a month and half to get going, but once he did he was pretty dominant. I can see the same thing probably happening with Pierre-Luc when he came back."

> **Nobody likes to get cut, but it's a process. I don't think coming back (to junior hockey) at 18 is a bad thing.**
> Pierre-Luc Dubois

There are no star attractions, like Connor McDavid in 2015 or Mitch Marner last year, on the Canadian team that will play in the world junior event Dec. 26 to Jan. 5 in Toronto and Montreal. Dubois and Dylan Strome, drafted third overall in 2015 by the Arizona Coyotes, are closest to star status.

Strome is among five returning players from the Canadian team that lost in the quarter-finals of last year's world juniors in Finland. Dubois didn't make that team.

"Last year, on the ice, I was ready, but I was nervous," said Dubois, 18. "It was my first camp with older guys.

"This year I went to the summer (development) camp. I met everybody. I think this year I'm mentally ready. I know what to expect. When I go on the ice, I try to have fun. Last year, I just tried not to make mistakes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Pierre-Luc Dubois of the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles controls the puck against Zack MacEwen of the Gatineau Olympiques on Oct. 21 in Gatineau, Que., during QMJHL action.**
FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

## Raps roll to 4th straight victory

DeMar DeRozan scored 31 points and Kyle Lowry added 20 to help the Toronto Raptors win their fourth straight game, 123-114 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

DeRozan continued to make the 30-point mark a routine part of his game as he did all of his scoring in the first three quarters. DeRozan posterized Jahlil Okafor with a dunk over the Sixers big man and easily rolled to his second straight 30-point game. He scored 30 points on Monday against Milwaukee and came in averaging a robust 27.9 points per game.

WEDNESDAY in Philly

| 123 | 114 |
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| RAPTORS | 76ERS |

Lowry helped one of his best friends blow the game open in his Philadelphia homecoming. Lowry made a three-pointer in the fourth that stretched the lead to 99-80 and earned some applause for the all-star raised in the area.

DeRozan and Lowry helped squash the Sixers' modest two-game winning streak. Long one of the NBA's worst teams, the Sixers haven't won three straight games since they took four in a row from Dec. 29, 2013 - Jan. 4, 2014. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Fabregas states his case to maintain Chelsea's lead

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUNDUP

## Spaniard sinks Sunderland as Liverpool move into second

Used sparingly by Chelsea during its long run of victories, Cesc Fabregas is providing significant reminders of his enduring value to the English Premier League leaders. Two weeks ago, it was Fabregas' raking pass to set up Diego Costa's goal that sparked Chelsea's come-from-behind win at Manchester City.

On Wednesday, it was the Spain midfielder's classy goal — a one-two with Willian before a composed finish from the edge of the area — that earned Chelsea a 1-0 win at Sunderland, a 10th straight victory in the league and six-point lead over Liverpool and Arsenal in the Premier League. "In football today, people forget very, very, very quickly who you are, and what you can do," Fabregas said. "Hopefully now I can get a run of games in the team."

This was Chelsea's third 1-0 win in its last five matches. In its 10 straight wins, Chelsea has only conceded two goals and this latest clean sheet was preserved by a stunning save by Thibaut Courtois off Patrick van Aanholt late in the game. It was a night when all of Chelsea's potential title rivals — Liverpool, Manchester City and Tottenham — won.

Adam Lallana scored two goals and set up another to inspire Liverpool to a 3-0 victory away to Middlesbrough as goalkeeper Simon Mignolet marked his return to the team with a clean sheet. Liverpool climb into joint second place with Arsenal.

City lost midfielder Ilkay Gundogan to a serious knee injury in a 2-0 win at home to Watford that brought mixed emotions for manager Pep Guardiola. Goals by Pablo Zabaleta and David Silva ensuring City bounced back from consecutive losses to remain in fourth spot.

Paul Pogba opened the scoring and Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an 88th-minute winner in a 1-2 away win at Crystal Palace for United, which has collected consecutive victories in the league for the first time since August.

United remain three points behind fifth-place Tottenham. Meanwhile, Christian Eriksen scored twice as Tottenham beat Hull 3-0, and Salomon Rondon scored a hat trick of headers to guide seventh-place West Bromwich Albion to a 3-1 win over struggling Swansea. Mark Noble's penalty earned West Ham a 1-0 win over Burnley.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

- Middlesbrough 0, **Liverpool 3**
- **West Ham 1,** Burnley 0
- Sunderland 0, **Chelsea 1**
- **Man City 2,** Watford 0
- **West Brom 3,** Swansea 1
- Stoke 0, Southampton 0
- Crystal Palace 1, **Manchester United 2**
- **Tottenham 3,** Hull 0

**Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas, left,** celebrates scoring the winner with his teammates Victor Moses, centre and Pedro against Sunderland at Stadium of Light. LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

### IN BRIEF

**Stampeders re-sign Thorn**

The Calgary Stampeders have signed Canadian offensive lineman Cam Thorn. The three-year veteran was eligible to become a free agent in February.

Thorn originally signed with the Stampeders in June after two seasons with the B.C. Lions. In his first season with Calgary, he appeared in 13 games and made three starts at centre and one at left guard. He was part of a Stamps offensive line that allowed the fewest sacks in the CFL in 2016.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Reed named Als new GM**

He's been a player, an assistant coach and a head coach in the CFL. Now Kavis Reed will get to try his hand at being a general manager.

The Montreal Alouettes announced Wednesday that Reed has been hired as their new GM. He replaces Jim Popp, who was fired Nov. 7.

The Alouettes also announced the surprising hiring of Patrick Boivin as their president and chief executive officer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Wilson in rehab after stroke**

Ron Wilson, whose NHL coaching career included a four-year stint with the Maple Leafs, is expected to make a full recovery after a recent stroke, according to family and friends.

Wilson, 61, has reportedly begun rehabilitation and sent messages to friends saying he's improving.

The Windsor, Ont. native, who coached more than 1,400 NHL games, received well wishes across the hockey world Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLS

## CFLers mock Seba over remarks

He might have been the 2015 MLS MVP, but according to CFL players, Sebastian Giovinco is a $7-million crybaby. CFLers aren't impressed with the Toronto FC star's suggestions that the natural grass at BMO Field was damaged because the Toronto Argonauts played at the stadium this year.

Giovinco, who came off because of cramps during the MLS Cup Final against the Seattle Sounders last Saturday, blamed the field conditions while speaking in Italian through an interpreter.

**Sebastian Giovinco** GETTY IMAGES

"Giovinco, both my hamstrings would have to cramp off the bone before I took myself out of the championship game. #cutfromdifferentcloth," tweeted Argos defensive back Matt Black. "That's some serious mental weakness . . . dude needs help," chimed in Saskatchewan Roughriders wide receiver Rob Bagg.

"Haha wow. Softer than baby ish!," added Argos offensive lineman Wayne Smith. There was some pushback from fans who suggested CFLers — in particular the Argos — might be jealous of the attention TFC has gotten this season. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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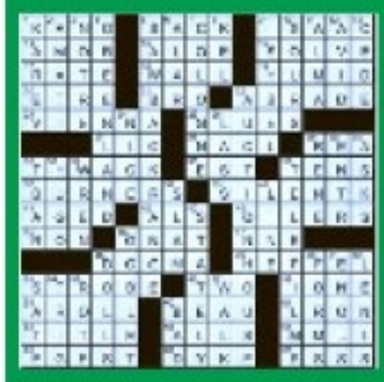

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**for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games**

MAKE IT TONIGHT

# *Spicy* Carrot Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**
For Metro Canada

Amp up or chill out the spices in this carrot soup depending on how you or your family like it.

**Ingredients**
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 onion chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 1/2 inch of fresh ginger minced
- 1 teaspoon chili
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 or 4 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 cups low sodium vegetable or chicken stock
- juice of half a lemon
- plain yogurt to garnish

**Directions**

**1.** Warm a glug or two of olive oil in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium heat.

**2.** Saute onions, garlic and ginger for about two minutes. Stir in spices and cook for another minute or so. Add carrots and stir well until they are coated lightly in oil and spice.

**3.** Add stock and increase the heat until it boils.

**4.** Reduce and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes or until carrots are quite tender.

**5.** Puree in small batches until the soup is quite smooth. You may need to add a little water or stock to thin it if it's too thick.

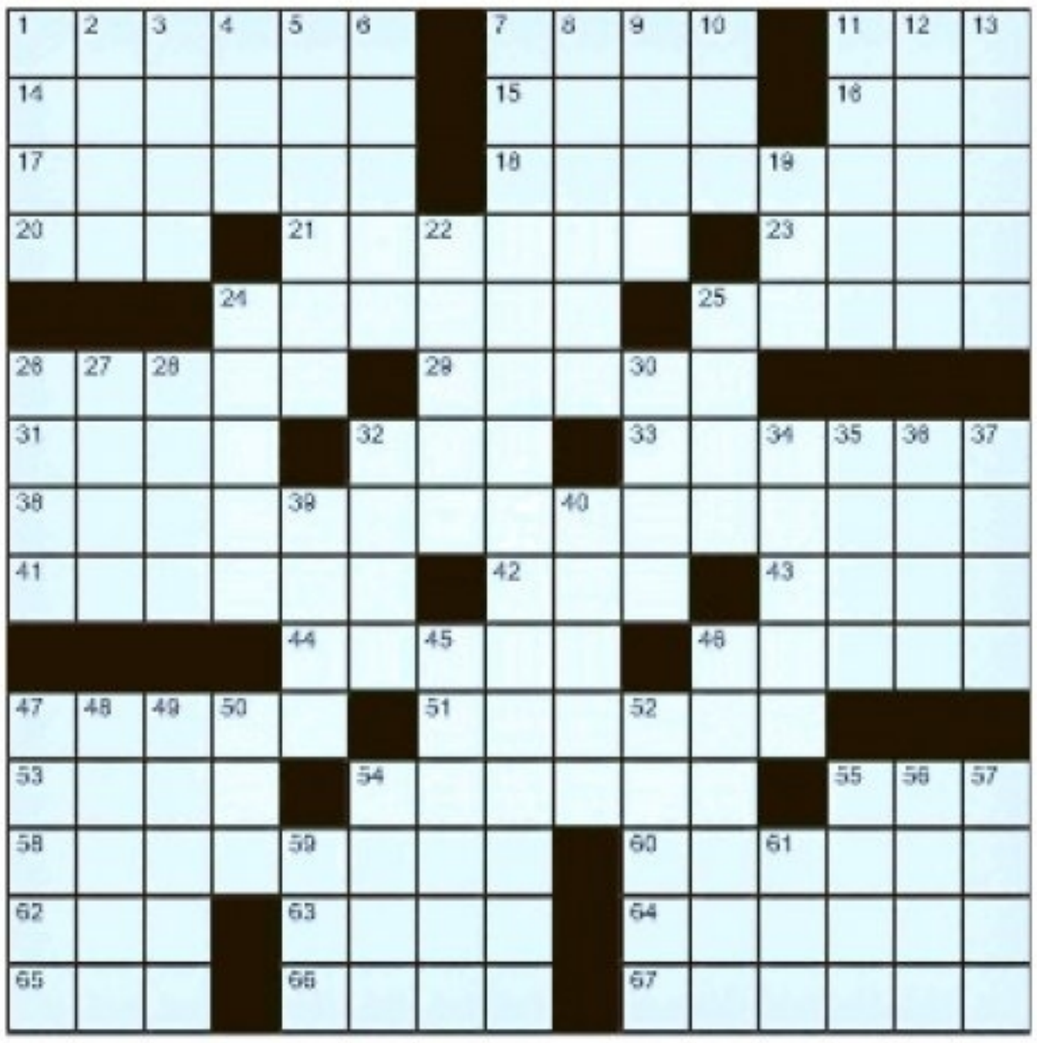
**6.** Stir in lemon juice.

**7.** Taste and check seasoning. Serve garnished with yogurt.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. Help get the hockey goal
7. Shindig
11. Pop-ups, e.g.
14. Less tight
15. Taxi alternative service
16. Orchestra __
17. Reunion attendees
18. Municipality in Manitoba, Norfolk __
20. Pine-__ (Cleaning brand)
21. Cleric with a wooden bench
23. Lotus position-doing class
24. The Enlightened One
25. Snake's toxin
26. Crouch
29. __ funds
31. Serve the wine
32. Favouring
33. Maple, in Quebec
38. Festive faux firs: 2 wds.
41. Doesn't catch, as a bus perhaps
42. Meshwork
43. Gather the crops
44. Male deers
46. Hoarse
47. The Matthew explorer John
51. 1981: "Being with You" by __ Robinson
53. Declare with certainty
54. Paper clip alternative
55. Sort of deposit
58. 'Crossroads to the Future' village in Alberta northeast of Calgary where Squirt the Skunk is the mascot
60. Practical
62. Work unit
63. Citizen of Ankara or Instanbul
64. Carpentry joint parts
65. Particular loaf
66. Pepsi holders
67. Showbiz legend Ms. Gabor: 2 wds.

**DOWN**
1. Sigher's word
2. Unaccompanied
3. Inner light
4. Philosophy
5. Lampoon
6. Gave it a go
7. On animal bone artifacts in archaeology, they indicate that tools were used, such as in the preparation of meat: 2 wds.
8. In a country far away
9. Pictured
10. Letters with Prince Charles' name
11. Cook's covering
12. Wild dog of Australia
13. "__ Heat" by Patti Page
19. Bionic part on Colonel Steve Austin
22. Specific-purpose committee 2 wds.
24. Mr. Karloff of scary movies
25. Green, in Quebec City
26. Internet junk
27. Ms. Spelling
28. Baseball stats
30. Money, informally
32. Boxer's hand formation
34. Range
35. Hive denizens
36. Jump
37. Catch a glimpse
39. Celebration
40. Ancient Greek creator of fables
45. Sailor's 'backward'
46. Peanut Butter Cups name
47. Tossed pole in Highland games
48. Office labels brand
49. Ecru
50. Alternatives
52. Butterfingers
54. Arctic seabird
55. "The Wizard __ __" (1939)
56. Bits of vocal acrobatics
57. Queen in Disney's "Frozen" (2013)
59. Long list ender
61. Disney animated movie deer

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
Something unexpected will interrupt your home routine today. Small appliances might break down, or minor breakages could occur. It could be anything! Be a Boy Scout, and be prepared.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents today, because this kind of energy is in the air. But if you are mindful, you will be just fine.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
Something having to do with your finances, your possessions or your cash flow will be interrupted. You might lose money or you might find something!

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, at odds with Uranus. This makes you independent and rather obsessed with things. Furthermore, everybody is restless and irritable.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Something occurring behind the scenes will have a domino effect and possibly interrupt your life or your plans today. Give yourself extra time so you have the space to deal with this.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You can expect to be surprised by a female acquaintance today. Possibly, you will meet someone who is really different or "out there."

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Relations with female authority figures are challenging today. This includes mom, bosses, judges, nurses and the police. Don't test your luck. Be courteous.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your travel plans will be interrupted today. You can almost count on this. Double-check all important details, and allow yourself extra traveling time.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Stay in touch with your bank account and anything having to do with inheritances and shared property, because something might adversely affect these areas today. Make sure you know what's happening.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A close friend or partner might throw you a curveball today. He or she might want more freedom or demand a change. Or she might take you out for dinner.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Expect interruptions at your workplace today. It could be anything: Computer glitches, equipment breakdowns and canceled appointments, as well as staff shortages.

**Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Keep your eyes peeled. Meanwhile, social plans might change.

**CONCEPTIS SUDOKU** by Dave Green

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NOW $31, 220

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# Tex-Mex that's big on flavour and fun

With authentic Tex-Mex food and drinks to make your mouth water, you won't want to miss out on this popular restaurant transforming the Mexican food scene.

The four amigos who created Añejo Restaurant on 4th Street are at it again with Blanco Cantina, located in the heart of 17th Avenue, according to operations manager Jay MacRaild.

"We like to refer to Blanco as Anejo's fun younger sister, and for good reason. It's a lively and fun atmosphere and the food is authentically delicious," he says.

Inspired by the Tex-Mex food from cities in Texas, Southern California and Western Mexico, the owners wanted to bring an authentic taste of Mexico and Texas to Calgarians without all of the travel.

"We do street-style tacos sourcing locally made tortilla shells and chips, and prepare all of the meats and marinades in house. The soft shell tortillas are amazing and you can choose from pork, chicken, beef, crispy fish, or veggie chili."

In fact, the food is so genuine that the Blanco chefs actually visited Jalisco, Mexico, and Houston, Texas, to learn all about the food and culture.

"The style of food and drink at Blanco is centered around friends and fun. We want it to feel like a beach club but right here in the city."

Offering casual dining for big appetites, over-the-top cocktails, and the hottest happy hour in the city — dubbed #halfyhour — with half-price tequila, tacos and nachos from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and half-price tacos every Tuesday.

One of the most popular items on the menu are the burritos, which are huge — one pound to be exact — modelled after the Southern U.S. variety. Don't worry; there is a smaller size, too. The quesadillas and fajitas are also local favourites.

For more information, please visit blancocantina.ca.

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# From Asian Buffet comes Oishii Sushi

Asian Buffet Macleod Trail is a buffet restaurant well known for its big size, huge food selection and friendly service.

Now in its 10th year, the popular buffet has recently undergone renovations to refresh the look while adding more private party rooms that can accommodate up to 400 patrons, according to owner Debbie Jiang.

"The other good news is that we are expanding our menu, too. Our patrons often find our existing menu selection so large that anybody can find something they like, even vegetarians," she explains. "The Mongolian grill is always fun to start with, where you can be your own chef and get creative. There are thousands of possible combinations."

One of the attractions of Asian Buffet for families is that kids are set free to pick and choose their own food, with a wide variety of desserts to choose from.

Just last year, the owners of Asian Buffet put together a team of experienced Japanese chefs and management to create a million-dollar Japanese restaurant in Riverbend called Oishii Sushi, which means tasty sushi.

"The focus is to create a fine line of all-you-can-eat sushi. Our chefs understand that not all people enjoy the raw fish, and that's why we added many cooked foods to our menu including baked oyster and fish, mayo shrimp, BBQ skewers, beef roll, dim sum and more."

The restaurant has an open-concept kitchen with a contemporary design to enhance the dining experience. Oishii can accommodate up to 200 patrons at the same time with a private party room for up to 30 people.

"Japanese food is by far the most colorful and creative food you can find and you can see that from Oishii Sushi's food. The good thing is the chefs make the dishes really small so you can enjoy more variety of food at every visit," Jiang adds.

# Festive must-dos

The holiday season in Calgary is rich with tradition, pageantry and fun. Whether you're skating 'round Olympic Plaza, taking in the majestic lights on a stroll along Stephen Avenue or basking in the wondrous glow of the 45-foot-tall CORE Christmas tree, it's easy to get into the festive spirit.

And this year, there's so much to experience around town. Here's a glimpse:

ISTOCK

### Ballet bound

No festive season is complete without Tchaikovsky's timeless holiday classic, The Nutcracker. Alberta Ballet dancers perform to music played by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, bringing Klara, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Nutcracker Prince to life before your eyes (and ears) on the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium stage.

*Dec. 16–24.*
*Albertaballet50.com*

### Festively funny

Who says the holidays aren't hilarious? Not the folks at Obviously Improv. This festive-fuelled comedy show is totally improvised, so there's no telling what to expect. But it promises to be brimming with holly, jolly, ivy and other gut-busting antics.

*Dec. 16, 8 p.m.*
*calgaryimprov.org*

### Collective genius

Market Collective, an independent arts market, is now a must-visit Christmas event in the city. This year's market is spread over four consecutive weekends, each with a unique roster of performers, musicians, artists and food vendors. So, even if you've already visited, enjoy one last indulgence. Besides, the market is licensed — what's more civilized than shopping with refreshments from the Sugar Water Cocktail Bar?

*Dec. 16-18*
*marketcollective.ca*

### Victorian victory

A yuletide visit to the Lougheed House is an historic adventure in the decorative arts. This year volunteers from the Calgary Design Group have packed 16 Christmas trees, thousands of lights and countless decorations into the 19th Century manor in honour of the theme, The Gilded Age. And with a host of Christmas-y programming such as Mountain View concerts and other special activities, this is one doorway you'll want to (try to) darken.

*Until Dec. 18.*
*lougheedhouse.com*

### Taste-full tour

Got an appetite that won't sit still? Take the Calgary Food Tours: Eating East Village tour. This culinary trek kicks off at Phil and Sebastian Coffee Roasters with an aromatic lesson on the roasting and brewing of coffee beans. You'll then get a rise with some bread-making tips at Sidewalk Citizen Bakery. A sumptuous asado feast at Charbar wraps it all up.

*Wednesdays until Dec 28.*
*calgaryfoodtours.com* —*SEAN DEASY*

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